

# **Greetings from Down For a Cure!**

#### January Newsletter

### Welcome

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our first ever Down For a Cure Quarterly update! It goes without saying that we are tremendously humbled to be at this point in our organization. The fact that DFAC started as a way for our family to give money to those in need, to what it has become today, is surreal. I am not sure we ever thought that we could make such a big impact on the lives of those affected by Cystic Fibrosis and Down Syndrome – however here we are.

With all of that said, we owe this to you – our faithful supporters. You deserve a thank you. You deserve an update. You deserve ALL the credit. Without all of you, none of this would be possible. I know it is said often but this instance it is the 100% truth. Over the years, we have been able to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to individuals, families, and organizations that have been impacted by CF and/or Down Syndrome. Through golf tournaments, walks, fundraisers or just plain asking, you all have always stepped up.

Down For a Cure is about to turn 6 years old...easy to remember since it coincides with Lincoln's age. It started off as an idea to help our family have a single place to donate and it has turned into so much more. We have been an ally to the Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association as well as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; both the Rocky Mountain Chapter and now the Gulf Coast Chapter. We have held golf tournaments; we have spoken at events; we have advocated; we have fought; we have cried; we have cheered and most recently we have moved. We made the decision in early 2021 to take an opportunity that has moved our family and our foundation to Texas. Instead of allowing that to shift our focus, it has forced us to expand it. We will continue our work with the Colorado organizations, as well as expand our efforts to the Gulf Coast.

#### Who benefited in 2022

Because of our combined efforts in 2022 – the first year with 2 golf tournaments – we were able to donate \$55,000.

- 1. We were first able to donate \$5000 to help a family, whose son has down syndrome; that lost everything in the Marshall Fires in Boulder in January 2022.
- 2. \$15,000 to the RMDSA
- 3. \$15,000 CF Foundation Rocky Mountain Chapter
- 4. We participated in the Great Strides Walk that supports the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation where DFAC donated \$10,000.
- 5. We also donated \$10,000 to a new startup organization called "Zoe's Toolbox," which is doing amazing work by providing care packages of developmental tools to families who have just welcomed a baby with Down Syndrome. This organization spoke directly to our hearts as we recall the early years of Lincoln's life and all the equipment and therapy we needed to help him thrive. They are doing wonderful work and we are proud to help them out.

#### What's next?

Although 2022 was a great success and DFAC was able to help in many ways, we are ready to keep fighting in 2023. Feeling a little more settled here in Texas, we are excited to get going. We will host our 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas Drive For a Cure golf outing at Walden on Lake Conroe on March 20<sup>th</sup>. It's a beautiful course close to home and we're anticipating a great turnout (hopefully great weather too).

## <u>Words Matter...</u>

We will close this first quarterly review with a simple reminder...words matter. We try to choose our words carefully because they are powerful. Earlier I wrote that we try to help people who have been impacted by Down Syndrome or CF and it is important to know that we mean that. We as a family have been positively impacted by the trials that we have gone through thanks to the children we are blessed with. We hear words every day that break our hearts; words that have such negative connotations... disease, sorry, sickness, illness, retard, etc. They are just words – but they are powerful. As much as we appreciate your donation, we ask that you advocate as much as you donate. Stick up for those who cannot stick up for themselves and just as important...choose your words wisely because they matter.

THANK YO



Jackson, Brock and Lincoln



CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION Adding tomorrows

GREAT STRIDES



#### **Important Dates:**

March 20th—Texas DFAC Golf Outing at Walden July 28th—Colorado DFAC Golf Outing—TBA