

May 2008

Daniella's Journey: Fulfilling a Child's Dream

A young life that ended much too soon will be celebrated Sunday, May 18, at "Daniella's Journey by the Sea," a 5K Run/Walk and one-mile Kid's Fun Run. The event, to be held at John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach, is being organized by the family and friends of Daniella Folleco, a 12-year-old who passed away last year from complications related to osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer.

The event will honor Daniella's memory, while also raising money to launch the "Daniella's Journey" Fund and help fulfill one of her dreams. "Daniella hoped that there might be a tranquil place

at the new Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital for families and patients to enjoy natural light in a pleasant and peaceful surrounding," said Italia Folleco, Daniella's mother. "She envisioned it being a 'safe haven' where there would be greenery and trickling water that would provide a lift to the spirit and heal the soul during difficult times."

Daniella was only nine-years-old when she received the cancer diagnosis, yet she spent the next two years focusing not on her illness but on helping others. The Pine Crest School student made and
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Daniella Folleco created a legacy of giving and caring, which will be celebrated at "Daniella's Journey by the Sea" in May.

Journey

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sold bracelets that raised more than \$4,000 for the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation's Love Jen Fund and the Breast Cancer Center at Memorial Regional Hospital.

"It is important to continue Daniella's legacy of giving and caring, because if everyone was more like Daniella, the

world would be a better place," said Rachel, an 11-year-old friend.

Daniella's Journey by the Sea will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 18. Registration packets are available online at www.daniellasjourney.org or at Runner's Depot (locations in Davie, Fort Lauderdale, and Aventura), Smart Bodies and Running Wild in Fort Lauderdale, and Meg Segreto's Dance Center in Davie. The cost is \$25 in advance, \$30 after May 16, and \$15 for the Kid's Fun Run.

To donate directly to Daniella's Journey at the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation, contact Don Eachus at (954) 985-7255 or deachus@mhs.net. To learn more about event sponsorship opportunities, be in touch with Valerie Hediger at (954) 568-5204 or hedigers@bellsouth.net.

The Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation (www.jdchf.org) raises money to help underwrite the cost of programs and equipment at the Joe

DiMaggio Children's Hospital, the leading children's hospital in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Established in 1994, the Foundation provides philanthropic-based support that supplements the income from payers and tax revenues received by the Memorial Healthcare System. The Foundation serves as the central agency through which charitable contributions are made. To learn more, call (954) 985-3454 or visit www.daniellasjourney.org.

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