

# Sun-Sentinel

{ Society }

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## On the Scene

# Community races to achieve Daniella's dream

In celebration of the life and legacy of Daniella Folleco, more than 900 people came together for support in a way she would have loved: by spending time with family and friends while raising money to aid those fighting cancer.

Folleco, a 12-year-old Pine Crest School student who passed away last year from complications related to osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer, was remembered fondly at "Daniella's Journey by the Sea." The

first annual event, a 5K Run/Walk and one-mile Kid's Fun Run that raised more than \$96,000 for the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation, officially launched "Daniella's Journey," a fund that will create an area within the hospital's oncology unit that Daniella envisioned while undergoing cancer treatments.

"Daniella hoped that there might be a tranquil place where families and patients hospitalized for long

periods of time could enjoy natural light in a pleasant and peaceful surrounding," said Italia Folleco, Daniella's mother. "She pictured it being a 'safe haven' where there would be greenery and trickling water that would provide a lift to the spirit and healing for the soul during difficult times."

Her event, which was held at John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach, enabled Daniella's extended family to once again feel her spirit

and follow the fundraising example set by the young girl. Even while coping with the effects of her own cancer, Daniella raised and donated more than \$4,000 to the Love Jen Fund at the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and Breast Cancer Center at Memorial Regional Hospital.

Event and fund supporters came from those Daniella had impacted at Pine Crest School, the medical community, family, friends, and the

local running community, all inspired by a young girl's devotion to helping others.

"My family was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support," said Mrs. Folleco. "Daniella touched the hearts of so many people during her short life and would have been thrilled by the generosity of everyone wanting to help."

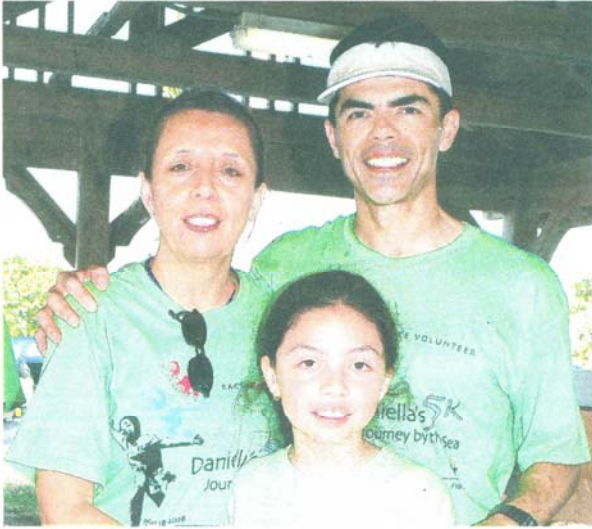
For more information about Daniella's Journey, visit [www.daniellasjourney.org](http://www.daniellasjourney.org). ■



Peter and Denise Wittich



Dr. Sean Kenniff with Bobby and Sydney Hurley



Italia, Alexandria, and Andres Folleco



Daniella's seventh-grade friends from Pine Crest School

## 12 Community races to achieve Daniella's dream

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