



Canadian Cystic
Fibrosis Foundation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Making Great Strides™ towards a Cure for Cystic Fibrosis

Cystic Fibrosis is the Most Common Fatal Genetic Disease Affecting Young Canadians

Toronto, ON – Mark your calendars! Sunday, May 27 is the third-annual Great Strides™ Walk, at the Toronto Zoo. Thousands of participants in the GTA will partake in the fight against cystic fibrosis (CF).

This year's honorary Super Strider, the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's representative at the Great Strides™ Walk, is 10-year-old Alisha Raimondo from Mississauga. Alisha was diagnosed with CF when she was 6 months old.

"The hardest part about CF is having to work so hard everyday just to stay healthy," says Alisha. "But my family and friends always tell me to never give up, and are always there to cheer me up on the days it gets really hard to be in a good mood."

The Great Strides™ Walk is a national fundraiser held annually on the last Sunday of May – Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month. GTA Striders will participate in various activities along the route, enjoy a free lunch and watch a special performance by Treehouse TV's **Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends™**. Admission to the Zoo is free for all walkers raising \$25 or more in pledges.

Facts about CF

- One in every 3,600 children in Canada is born with CF.
- Cystic fibrosis is an inherited disease, which affects primarily the lungs and digestive system.
- Persons with cystic fibrosis must take, on average, 20 enzyme pills a day to digest their food.
- In November 2006, Ontario has announced that it will include cystic fibrosis in its newborn screening program. Once implemented, all newborns in Ontario will be tested for the disease.
- In 1960, most children with CF did not live long enough to attend kindergarten; today half of all Canadians with CF are expected to live into their late 30s and beyond.

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Great Strides™ Walk

- Each year, thousands of walkers participate in more than 35 Great Strides™ Walks across Canada.
- The walks are organized by Foundation volunteers and staff.
- In 2006, the Toronto-area Great Strides™ walk alone raised over \$300,000.

Sponsors this year include: HBC, BMO Capital Markets, Toronto Zoo, Toronto Blue Jays, Warner Bros. Entertainment Canada Inc, Chewy, Crispy Tortillaz, Crunchy, American Airlines, Propel, Pizza Pizza, Inkas, Orbis Communications, Kin Canada, Toronto Community News, CTV and AM 640.

About the Foundation

The Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF) is a Canada-wide health charity, with more than 50 volunteer chapters that fund CF research and care. In 2007, the Foundation will support more than 50 research projects, which are exploring all aspects of the CF puzzle; from investigating new methods of fighting infection and inflammation in the lungs, to finding new therapies that target the basic defect at a cellular level. As yet, there is no known cure for CF. However, the discovery of the gene responsible for cystic fibrosis by a Canadian-led team of researchers, supported by the CCFF, was a first and crucial step toward finding a cure or an effective control for this devastating disease. For more information, watch the CCFF informational [video](#) or visit www.cysticfibrosis.ca.

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For more information or to setup interviews, please contact:

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