

For Immediate Release



Torontonians take Great Strides™ towards a cure

The Toronto & District Chapter of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation raises more than \$360,000.00 for cystic fibrosis

Toronto, ON (May 29, 2007) – On Sunday, May 27, thousands stepped out at the Great Strides™ walk to help step up the fight against cystic fibrosis (CF). This year's GTA Great Strides™ walk raised more than \$360,000.00 to support the work of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF).

The fun-filled event saw families take to the Toronto Zoo with excitement and enthusiasm for the CF cause, as kids of all ages took part in activities along the route, and enjoyed a performance by Treehouse TV's Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends™. However, for many, like the Raimondos of Mississauga, the fight to cure CF wasn't just a day at the zoo.

Alisha Raimondo, 10, has cystic fibrosis. Her family has been fighting this devastating disease since she was diagnosed as an infant. She faces a demanding daily routine of physical and inhalation therapy to keep her lungs free from infections. Alisha must also consume a large number of enzymes, about 20 pills a day, to help her body absorb nutrients from food.

Each year, Alisha, with the support of her friends and family, participates in the Great Strides™ walk. This year, Alisha was chosen to be the Foundation's 2007 GTA Super Strider – putting a face to the realities of cystic fibrosis.

Alisha's father, Gino Raimondo, said the walk was a great opportunity to connect with other local families affected by the disease.

"I don't feel so alone. Most of the time, you're dealing with the disease on a one-on-one basis. You feel isolated," he said. "When you come out to events like the Great Strides™ walk, you see that there are people who care. It really means a lot."

The GTA walk was one of 35 being held across Canada. Proceeds from the local walk have helped this year's fundraising campaign become the most successful to date – grossing more than \$ 1 million in support of the Foundation.

Money raised will go to vital CF research and clinical care. In 2007, the Foundation is supporting more than 50 research projects, which are exploring all aspects of the CF puzzle.

The CCFF is grateful to the proud partners and corporate sponsors of the GTA Great Strides™ walk, including HBC, Kin Canada, 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, Toronto Community News, CTV and AM 640.

About the Foundation

The Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF) is a Canada-wide health charity, with 50 volunteer chapters, that funds CF research and care. When the CCFF was established 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 even beyond.

For more information about cystic fibrosis and the Foundation, watch an informational [video](#) or visit www.cysticfibrosis.ca

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For more information, or to speak with a family affected by cystic fibrosis, please contact:

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