

Kortney Rose Foundation donates to children's hospital

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On what would have been Kortney Rose Gillette's 11th birthday, the Kortney Rose Foundation donated \$75,000 to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

OCEANPORT

Kortney Rose was 9 in December 2005 when she was diagnosed with brain stem glioma, a rare brain tumor. She died four months later and, amid their grief, her parents created the Kortney Rose Foundation, designed to raise money and awareness for the research and treatment of brain tumors in children.

Kortney's mother, Kristen, said brain tumors are the No. 1 cause of cancer-related deaths in children 19 and younger.

The Kortney Rose Foundation was established in August last year by Kristen and Rich Gillette who live in the borough with their daughter Kasey.

They made the donation on Nov. 27, Kortney's birthday, because they wanted to change

what could be a potentially sad day into a positive one, Kristen Gillette said.

This year, the foundation has set \$100,000 as its fundraising goal. The foundation donated \$75,000 last year because that is the cost of a researcher at the children's hospital, according to a news release.

It raised the money through a dinner-dance in May and Kortney's Challenge, a walk-run in September.

The foundation had assistance from its corporate sponsor, World Subaru of Tinton Falls, which has pledged to help this year as well, according to the release.

Crabby Mara, a crabbing business, raised more than \$4,000. Funds also came from a Lakewood BlueClaws game, friends of Kortney who donated their allowances, and money from bake sales and garage sales.

"No amount is too small," Kristen Gillette said. "We are grateful for every penny."



Rich and Kristen Gillette stand with their daughter Kasey during a playground dedication at Wolf Hill Elementary School in Oceanport early last year in memory of their daughter Kortney Rose, who died of a brain tumor in 2006. (STAFF PHOTO: MARY FRANK)

