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## Courtice boy running Disney Marathon for sick brother

*Seven-year-old Dawson Girotto raising money for neurofibromatosis research*

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COURTICE -- Seven-year-old Dawson Girotto, of Courtice, is going to the wall and beyond for his brother.

He will be running at the Walt Disney World Marathon in Florida in the new year, raising funds for his older brother, Jullian, who has neurofibromatosis.

The boys' mother, Kathy, will also take part, running the half marathon.

Neurofibromatosis 1, also known as von Recklinghausen NF or peripheral NF, occurs in one of every 3,000 births. It is characterized by multiple neurofibromas on or under the skin. Enlargement, deformation of bones and curvature of the spine may also occur. Occasionally, tumours may develop in the brain, on cranial nerves, or on the spinal cord. About 50 per cent of people with NF also have learning disabilities.

Although most cases of NF1 are mild to moderate, NF1 can lead to disfigurement, blindness, skeletal abnormalities, dermal, brain and spinal tumours, loss of limbs, malignancies and learning disabilities.

"I am doing this because my big brother Jullian cannot run because of NF," Daso said in a press release. "I want to help him and others with NF."

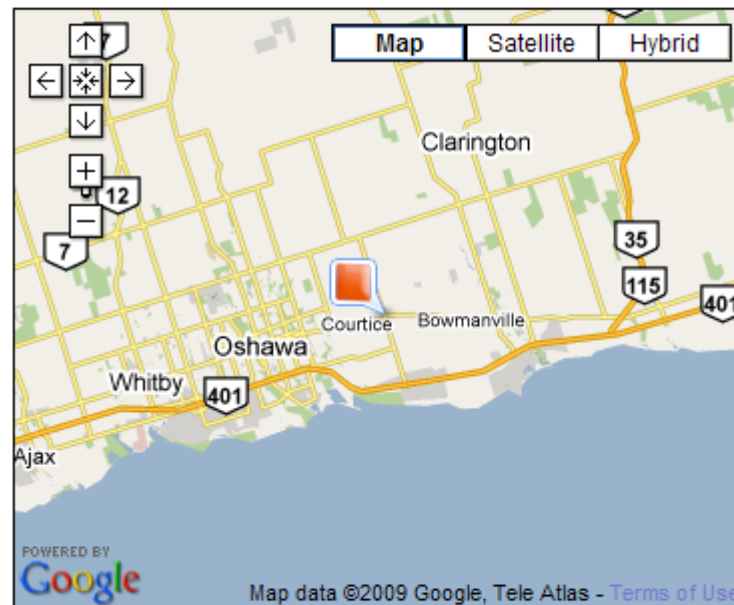
The marathon is on Jan. 9, 2010 in Florida.

The family can be contacted by e-mail at [kgirotto@sympatico.ca](mailto:kgirotto@sympatico.ca), or donations can be made online at [www.canadahelps.org/GivingPages/GivingPage.aspx?gpID=5498](http://www.canadahelps.org/GivingPages/GivingPage.aspx?gpID=5498).

As of Friday, he had raised \$710 of his \$5,000 goal.



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