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March 11 Kilt for a Cure

By Shelby Fisk sfisk@theabingtonjournal.com
Reporter/Photographer

CLARKS SUMMIT- "Over 3,000 people wear kilts everyday," said George Yarns, a retired firefighter and Fire Marshall of Clarks Summit. In April, Yarns will add to that number by wearing one every day as a unique way to raise money.

Sponsors can donate \$1 a day or \$30 total to see Yarns walk the streets of Clarks Summit in his kilt. All the money collected through Yarns' Kilt for a Cure will benefit The Children's Tumor Foundation, based in New York, NY.

According to The Children's Tumor Foundation, Web site www.ctf.org, the non-profit medical foundation's mission statement is, "dedicated to improving the health and well being of individuals and families affected by the neurofibromatosis (NF)." Although there are different types, the Web site explained, "Neurofibromatosis encompasses a set of distinct genetic disorders that cause tumors to grow along various types of nerves and, in addition, can affect the development of non-nervous tissues such as bones and skin. Neurofibromatosis causes tumors to grow anywhere on or in the body."

When Yarns called the Foundation to tell them about his fundraising idea, he said, "Well, at first they had to pause for a second and then they said, 'That's a good idea, we'll see where it goes.'"

Yarns said his daughter, Tammy, and her two children, Ashley, 15, and Kyle, 20, have been active for seven years assisting the Children's Tumor Foundation to raise awareness and funding for research in children's cancer.

"Mostly we either work and/or run in 5K, 10K, half marathons and full marathons wearing the NF Endurance Team logos on our racing bibs or T-shirts," said Yarns. "We do this in Philadelphia, Virginia Beach, New York City and other places."

Yarns' son-in-law Jim Miskowski died in 2001 from a brain tumor. "It popped up out of nowhere," Yarns said. Both children inherited the cancer gene and neurofibromatosis.



George Yarns, who is a member of the Scottish-American Military Society, will be wearing a kilt every day in April as a unique way to raise money. He is shown in his Graham family kilt and T-shirt with NF Endurance Team logos.

Abington Journal Photo/Shelby Fisk

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Kyle Yarns once had a tumor growing on one of his kidneys, which was removed, and his sister Ashley has some potential problems with her hearing. "It hasn't manifested itself yet and it may never. That's the one thing, you never know what it's going to do. You could go your entire life with rare, minor problems and all of a sudden it could pop up," Yarns said.

"It's (neurofibromatosis) really common," Yarns said. According to the Web site, "It strikes one in every 3,000 births, and affects people of all races and ethnic origins throughout the world." Yarns, who is a member of the Scottish-American Military Society, said he has also been very involved in Highland Scottish-Irish Games and events and owns four kilts.

The kilts will be of Highland Clan Graham and Anderson.

"So, if you see a kilted old gent walking the streets of the Abingtons in April, it's me with a kilt on when I go to a Fire Company meeting, or to a doctor's appointment or go grocery shopping," Yarns said. "All the ladies over at Gerrity's Supermarket can't hardly wait."

To contact George Yarns, call 499-5938 or e-mail gyarns@aol.com. To sponsor Kilt for a Cure, send donations to 232 Melrose Ave., Clarks Summit. For more information on neurofibromatosis and The Children's Tumor Foundation, visit ctf.org, call 212-344-6633 or email info@ctf.org.

Want to help Kilt for a Cure?

Contact: George Yarns

Phone: 499-5938

Email: gyarns@aol.com.

Mailing address: 232 Melrose Ave., Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

Info: About neurofibromatosis and The Children's Tumor Foundation: ctf.org, 212-344-6633 or info@ctf.org.

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Trish said...

WOOO HOOO! GO GEORGE!!! My Brother is smiling down at you right now! Love you!

March 12, 2009 at 3:11 PM

K.M. Camiolo said...

This is super cool! As wife of an NF hero & mom to 2 NF heroes, THANK YOU!!!

March 14, 2009 at 6:12 PM

Anne S. said...

This is awesome! good job! I have NF2, and have run with the team!

March 17, 2009 at 9:59 AM

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