



**Dandy Walker Syndrome Fundraiser**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

On September 26, I will be participating in a Walk/Run fundraiser in Millport, Alabama, to raise public awareness and promote the need for more research of a birth defect known as Dandy-Walker Syndrome and a commonly associated condition called hydrocephalus.

Dandy-Walker involves an area at the back of the brain called the cerebellum and the fluid-filled spaces around it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that Dandy-Walker occurs in at least 1 in 5000 infants. Although it is one of the most common brain malformations, still little is known about Dandy-Walker and its cause(s); today there is no cure.

Four years ago, Eric and Andrea Cole were blessed with a son, Ryan, born with Dandy-Walker; he soon developed hydrocephalus. After learning that no advocacy organization existed for the Dandy-Walker community, the Cole's united with other families and established the Dandy-Walker Alliance, Inc. as a 501(c)3 non-profit public charity dedicated to providing educational and informational activities, supporting research and organizing events to increase public awareness for Dandy-Walker. Today, the Dandy-Walker Alliance disseminates information in 41 languages to 73 countries around the globe for free. You can learn more about Dandy-Walker and the Alliance by visiting the website at [www.Dandy-Walker.org](http://www.Dandy-Walker.org).

Individuals with Dandy-Walker can have a wide range of manifestations, from quite mild with some children having normal cognition and others never achieving normal intellectual development. Longevity depends on the severity of the syndrome and associated malformations. The presence of multiple congenital defects may shorten life span.

Eric and Andrea do not know what the future will hold for Ryan. He is a happy little boy who attends a special preschool year round where he is learning to talk, use sign language and play like any other child. He says prayers with Mom and Dad every night before bed and tells his family that he loves them in his own special way.

Please sponsor me as I run/walk to fund efforts to increase awareness and promote the need for more research into Dandy-Walker for so many children like Ryan. You may enclose your tax-deductible donation in this self-addressed flyer and return it to the address below. All donations will be acknowledged in writing for you to use as a receipt for your tax records. Checks should be made to the Dandy-Walker Alliance, Inc.

Thank you for your generous support and for helping me advocate for those who can not advocate for themselves.

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Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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I will sponsor you for a flat amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ I will sponsor you for \$\_\_\_\_\_per lap

**Please make checks payable to Dandy-Walker Alliance**



**From:**

**Dandy-Walker Alliance, Inc.  
c/o R. Scott Cole, CPA  
P. O. Box 278  
Millport, Alabama**

**From:**

**To:**