

THE POWERS OF



Ryan's Quest

To Fight Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

10

10...is a
very powerful
number.

10...is the age at which most
children with Duchenne muscular
dystrophy **stop walking.**

10...is the age our
son, **Ryan**, will turn
next month on the
10th day of January.

10...is the number of years
that mark **the halfway point**
of the **average lifespan** for
children living with Duchenne.

**We need
your help...**

to complete our cycle...
to move heaven and earth...
in a way that will merge the
best of science and the greatest of miracles.

10...is the **number**
of **times a day** we
question the fate
of our son's life.

10...a number that
symbolizes the
completion of a
cycle. It is the
number of heaven
and the world and
universal creation.

We invite you to join us by giving us 10...

- 10 minutes of your time to read about our efforts
- 10 friends or family members (forward this message on to 10 people)
- A donation in a "POWER OF 10" ... \$10; \$100; \$1,000
(donations of any denomination are greatly appreciated and tax-deductible)

In honor of Ryan's upcoming 10th birthday, let's bring him-and all those affected by Duchenne muscular dystrophy- thousands of happy days ahead and a lifetime filled with hundreds of great opportunities.

2015 ANNUAL APPEAL



Our story – *still being written* – is one of despair and triumph. It has, at times, both tested our faith in humankind and it has shown us that there is nothing more powerful or promising than people working together.

Parents of boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy start out just like all new parents. We memorialize our little miracle's every new accomplishment – we write down the dates, we stand, at ready, with video cameras to capture developmental milestones... *Head holding. Rolling over. Gripping toys. Sitting up. Crawling, walking, climbing, running, food-throwing.*

Then comes the day we learn that our son is one of the very few with an extremely rare, yet deadly, genetic disease- Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

We're shocked, confused, angry, scared and momentarily stuck in that moment. Our new reality settles in... *Next, we come to grips with the facts.*

FACT

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is genetic, degenerative and 100% fatal.

FACT

Muscle degeneration begins before a boy's sixth birthday.

FACT

By the teen years, the heart and respiratory muscles will be compromised.

FACT

Most boys with Duchenne survive only into their twenties.

The silly side of Ryan.



Ryan has GIANT dreams too!
(Giants Stadium)

Ryan in his fav spot-
(The mountains of
New Hampshire)



The next chapter begins, our new reality: We realize that one day we will again become as watchful as we were during Ryan's first couple of years of development. Anxiety will replace excitement this next time around. We will be watching for muscular regression – signs that his muscles are succumbing to the dreadful disease.

There is no way to fully prepare yourself to watch your son's physical decline: the day a milk carton is too heavy, a walk through the family room is impossible. Will it hit him or us worse the day that he stumbles in front of his friends? What about the day that he decides it simply feels better to sit than to try? How dare Duchenne attack his spirits, too?

From the start we were told that our efforts – and those of our friends and the amazing Ryan's Quest community would never change the course of our own son's life. His destiny with Duchenne was pre-determined. The science lagged and the resources to advance its research were a pipe dream.



Sometimes we just have to believe and persevere. And that's just what we did... With your amazing help, mountains are moving at rapid speed. Together, we have contributed over \$1.5 million dollars to research since the inception of Ryan's Quest. At this moment in time a most promising treatment exists and we are racing to push the FDA to make it available to all families who can benefit.

Each contribution made will bring us steps closer to ensuring that this rare disease will be stopped in its tracks by safe, therapeutic medicinal intervention.

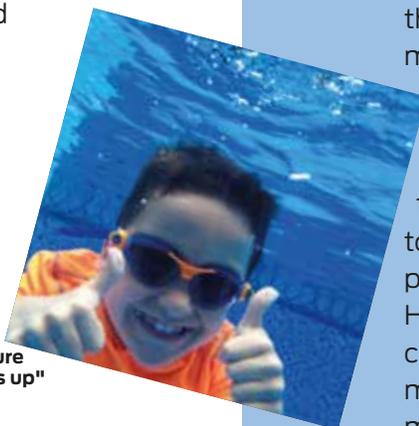
Your donation to Ryan's Quest will be used to further our commitment to advancing the research and trials that are desperately needed.

Our story-still being written- can only end one way....triumph over tragedy.

Thank you for taking the time to read this appeal and for joining us in our quest.

With love and gratitude,
(Insert signature)

Maria and David Schultz
Ryan's Mom & Dad



Ryan's signature "thumbs up"

Your investment in Ryan's Quest can help us continue this crusade.



Boston Children's Hospital

Your support through this annual appeal will help us fund our latest partnership with Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Kunkel co-discovered the mutation that causes Duchenne muscular dystrophy and is a faculty member at Boston Children's Hospital. As part of his quest to develop Dystrophin-independent therapies for Duchenne, he is seeking to build on evidence that supports the potential of the serotonin pathway. He proposes to screen several commonly used and safe serotonin modulators – antidepressant medications – to determine their ability to prevent and correct muscle degeneration. The goal is to identify the most promising drug and bring it into a clinical trial for boys with Duchenne.

Ryan's Quest is a 501 (c)(3) public charity EIN#26-1890529
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