



**BRAIN ANEURYSM
FOUNDATION**

Raising Awareness. Ending Fear.™

269 HanoverStreet
Building 3
Hanover, MA 02339
(781) 826-5556 Phone
(781)826-5566Fax
TaxID No. 04-3243864
www.bafound.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Todd and Karen Helton

Phone: 919-793-5857

2nd annual Ellie Helton Memorial 5K and Fun Run Event Cary, NC, effort comes on heels of proposed national legislation in Helton's name

(Hanover, MA—October 4, 2016) The family and friends of Ellie Helton will gather on Saturday, October 15, 2016 to raise money to fund research of and support for those affected by brain aneurysms. Ellie Helton was 14 years old when she died on July 16, 2014 as a result of a brain aneurysm. She is remembered by her family as a girl who “loved God, family and friends, superheroes, Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups and pizza.”

The event is being co-sponsored by the Massachusetts-based Brain Aneurysm Foundation, the national voice of those living with or impacted by brain aneurysms, which affect 1 in 50 people leading to an estimated 30,000 ruptures annually.

Ellie’s legacy now extends beyond Cary, NC, with “Ellie’s Law” (HR 6185), named for Helton, which was recently introduced in U.S. House of Representatives. This legislation would authorize \$25 million in federal funding for brain aneurysm research. Increased funding for brain aneurysm research is the key to finding effective treatments, interventions, and ways to prevent aneurysms from developing.

This proposed legislation would provide the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) with \$25 million (\$5 million per year for five years) to conduct or support further comprehensive research on unruptured intracranial aneurysms, studying a broader patient population diversified by age, sex, and race.

“The only way we will ever eradicate the devastation of brain aneurysm disease is to make real, long term investment in research. Congresswomen Yvette Clarke and Renee Ellmers’ bill, HR 6185, is the first and boldest step to date in bringing this effort to fruition,” stated Christine Buckley, Executive Director of the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, which was started in 1994 at Massachusetts General Hospital and is now based in Hanover, MA.

The 5K and Fun Run will be held on October 15, 2016 beginning at 8 a.m. at WakeMed Soccer Park, 201 Soccer Park Drive, Cary, NC 27511.

“Events such as this one in Cary, NC, are what allow us to fund the research that is leading the way,” said Buckley. “There is so much to be done for those impacted by brain aneurysms, and with the help of people, like these great supporters, we are able to be at the forefront of this work.”

The money raised from these events will be distributed through the Foundation. The globally recognized organization recently hosted its 10th annual Research Grant Symposium in Atlanta, GA, at which \$310,000 in grant money was awarded to 11 recipients whose research is impacting this disease. The Foundation has three missions: to help support families and those who have suffered a brain aneurysm; to advance cutting edge medical research; and, to be the advocacy voice of the brain aneurysm community in Washington.

Brain Aneurysms by the numbers:

- Six million people in the U.S. have a brain aneurysm, 30,000 of whom will suffer a rupture each year
- Of the 30,000, 60 percent will survive
- Of those who survive, approximately 66 percent will endure permanent neurological deficits that limit their ability to resume a normal life
- The cost of treating brain aneurysms and caring for those who have suffered a rupture nationally is in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually
- 50 percent of those who have a brain aneurysm rupture are less than 50 years old

The Foundation is unique in that it has a Medical Advisory Board of Directors, which is made up of more than three-dozen doctors—neurologists, neurosurgeons, and interventional neuroradiologists—representing the best research hospitals, facilities, and universities throughout the country. The Medical Advisory Board members provide expertise and support to the Foundation in a variety of ways. The Foundation recently announced that two leading physicians joined the medical advisory board: Dr. L. Fernando Gonzalez, associate professor of neurosurgery at Duke University, and Dr. Brian Jankowitz, Co-Director, Endovascular Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

It has been a busy year for the Brain Aneurysm Foundation. The organization received national attention, including in May 2016, when it led a delegation of more than six-dozen brain aneurysm survivors, family members of those affected by the disease, advocates, and medical professionals from around the country for a Congressional Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. The delegation met with key legislators including Senator Edward Markey (D-MA), Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and Representative Renee Ellmers (R-NC).

Also in May, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation participated in the #StrokeTalk as part of National Stroke Awareness Month with the CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Director Dr. Walter Koroshetz, Million Hearts Executive Director Dr. Janet Wright, and Kaiser Permanente research scientist Dr. Mai Nguyen-Huynh.

In April 2016, the U.S. Senate passed by acclamation Resolution 438 naming September as “National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month,” which was introduced by Senators Markey and Ayotte. And on Sunday, April 21, 2016, more than 1,000 people gathered at Boston’s historic Fenway Park to participate in the 15th annual Arterial Challenge, a 5K Run and 3K Walk to fund research.

The Foundation also launched a public awareness campaign featuring a PSA titled “Pleased to Meet You” that was created by the award-winning agency, HQ Creative. Link to the PSA Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/brainaneurysmfound>

###

ABOUT THE BRAIN ANEURYSM FOUNDATION

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is the globally recognized leader in brain aneurysm awareness, education, support, advocacy and research funding. Now celebrating more than 20 years’ of service and led by Executive Director Christine Buckley, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation was established in 1994 at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, with a mission to promote early detection of brain aneurysms by providing knowledge and raising awareness of the signs, symptoms and risk factors; work with the medical communities to provide support networks for patients and families; as well as to further research that will improve patient outcomes and save lives. **For more information about the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, visit www.bafound.org**