

ROCORI Times

Was he live...

LOCAL NEWS DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITIES OF COLD SPRING ★ RICHMOND ★

Richmond man to raise funds for cancer, hopes to set world snowmobile record

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Funds

The child's father said they read about the challenge in a local paper and shortly after, he heard the clinking of change as banks were emptied, Keller remembers. The cause has moved all ages.

He has also heard from fellow snowmobilers who have indicated that they plan to join him on his journey.

A giving family

Julie Keller helped her father design the logo for the event as well as start the foundation. While there is no fundraising goal, it is nice to see the response, Julie said.

"This is a startup nonprofit," she said. "We're hoping to create a perpetual fund . . . We still have to determine what the needs are."

Keller said while other organizations raise money in support of research, KFCF is different. Whether it's money for a hotel stay for families visiting sick relatives, to gas cards for example, they want to provide something tangible, she said.

"Our focus is on making a difference with people," she said.

One example of this tangibility can be seen by a previous wish Nick helped fulfill.

While on a Wisconsin snowmobile trip in 2007, he met a Dane County sheriff deputy who was battling liver cancer. She shared her wish to learn how to drive a snowmobile and take a trip. He helped grant the wish in February 2008. Nick said she looked forward to a second adventure, but she died before it could happen. Julie said they have been asked why they are focusing on cancer. The answer is simple:

"It's something that has personally affected this family and it's widespread," she said.

Because snowmobiling is a family tradition, there is little concern about Nick's travels, Janet and Julie said. Julie does not doubt that he can reach his goal.

"He's going to shatter the record," she said. "He's such a determined person."

The family has invested their own money in the cause, but donations and sponsorships will help see it through. Nick said it does matter if they raise all the money to cover expenses. He is making the trip for the cause.

Julie said they hope to set up a way for people to track him via their Web site. Nick would like to start the challenge Dec. 26, but it depends on the weather. He would also like to have a local run before the event to spread the word even more.

For information about the challenge, visit: www.snowballcancer.org.