

Local Diabetes Walk raises over \$12K

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 Staff Writer

While all of the numbers aren't yet in, and a walk-a-thon to add to the total will happen on Tuesday in Tyrone, Lisa Treese, organizer of the Diabetes Walk at Foot of Ten Elementary last weekend said that so far, this year's event raised over \$12,000 -- a great success, despite the rainy, cold weather.

Treese's son, Zachary, now almost a teenager, was diagnosed with Type 1 when he was just three years old. Following his diagnosis, Treese began organizing the walk each year to raise funds in hopes to find a cure.

Her efforts have now raised more than \$110,000. Funds from this walk are sent directly to the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI) at the University of Miami in Florida. Many local families with

diabetic family members participate in the walk each year.

Type 1 Diabetes is an autoimmune disease that tends to begin during childhood, which is why it was formerly known as Juvenile Diabetes. Unlike Type 2 Diabetes, Type 1 does not happen as a result of diet or lack of exercise. It can happen to anyone, even in infancy, and is a result of the body's own immune system attacking islet cells in the pancreas, shutting down the natural function of processing sugars/carbohydrates. Type 1 Diabetics are insulin-dependent, and must test their blood through needle sticks several times each day (and night), and receive insulin injections throughout the day, at meals, and at bedtime, in order to keep blood sugars within a healthy range.

Type 1 Diabetic children, unlike other children who

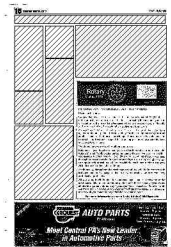
might get shots a few times each year, must receive injections many times each day. Even those who forgo regular injections to wear an insulin pump must change the pump site, similar to an IV site, every few days. It is a disease that, while manageable, they must live with every hour of everyday for the rest of their lives, or until a cure is found.

Among their research, scientists at DRI have been working on technology to be able to transplant new islet cells into the body, to replace those that were destroyed by the immune system. However, since the immune system in a Type 1 Diabetic would also eventually attack and destroy the new cells, scientists are working on a process to encapsulate the new cells, to essentially hide them from the body's immune system.

To read more about this



Pictured is Team Zachary at the 2016 Diabetes Walk last weekend at Foot of Ten Elementary School. Zachary is the son of Tyrone Area Elementary School teacher Lisa Treese, who organizes the walk each year in hopes to find a cure. (Submitted Photo)





Team Brayden is pictured at the 2016 Diabetes Walk last weekend at Foot of Ten Elementary School. Brayden was recently diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes (formerly known as Juvenile Diabetes). It is hoped by many that with research towards a cure progressing more and more, children who are diagnosed today will not have the disease for their whole lives. (Submitted Photo)