



Canadian Cystic
Fibrosis Foundation



Taking Steps to Cure Cystic Fibrosis

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thousands of families stepped out to join the fight against cystic fibrosis

With great success, The Toronto & District Chapter of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF) held its first annual Great Strides™ Walk on Sunday, May 29 at the Toronto Zoo.

TORONTO, ON (May 30, 2005) – More than 2,300 walkers participated in the Great Strides™ Walk yesterday. Walkers came from across Toronto and surrounding areas to raise more than \$200,000 for cystic fibrosis (CF) research and care.

The highlights of the event were many, including the sunshine that lasted until the afternoon. The thousands of families who strolled along the walk route really enjoyed the children's activities set-up for this event in combination with the many fascinating animal exhibits at the Toronto Zoo. Most importantly, every dollar pledged to the Great Strides™ Walk helps bring the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation one step closer to a cure for CF, a fatal and devastating disease.

Caitlyn Brady, 12, who was diagnosed prenatally with CF spoke about her brave fight against cystic fibrosis (CF) to the crowd at the Waterside Theatre in the Zoo. "I really want people to know how important this walk is to me and to so many others who suffer from CF," she said. "It makes me feel really happy and hopeful to see so many people walking today."

"Thousands of families were able to spend a fun day at the Zoo, while also supporting a great cause," said Ron Anderson, the Toronto & District Chapter volunteer President. "Many of the walkers have an affiliation to someone who suffers from the disease, and judging by Sunday's crowd the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is continuing to make huge strides in the fight against cystic fibrosis."

The Toronto & District Chapter of the CCFF would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all those who participated and to our Proud Partners and Corporate Sponsors of the Great Strides™ Walk: Hbc, Siemens Canada Ltd, Kin Canada, Pizza Pizza, Schneiders, Crispy Minis, Quaker Oatmeal to Go Bars, Propel and Brinks.

...more

For more information about the Great Strides™ Walk at the Toronto Zoo visit www.cfftoronto.ca.

CF is the most common, fatal, genetic disease affecting young Canadians. The devastating disease attacks the lungs and the digestive system. The CCFF is a Canada-wide health charity, with more than 50 volunteer chapters, which funds cystic fibrosis research and care. The Foundation is a world leader in the fight against CF. The gene responsible for CF was identified in 1989 by a Canadian-led team of researchers supported by the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Canadian investigators continue to play a leading role in the worldwide race to find a cure or control for the disease. When the CCFF was established in 1960, most children with CF did not live long enough to attend kindergarten; today half of all Canadians with CF may be expected to live into their late 30s, and beyond.

-30-

For more information and/or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Trisha Towell
Event Coordinator
Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Toronto & District Chapter
416-932-3900
ttowell@cfftoronto.ca