

CHILDREN IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Samuel Miller



Cystic Fibrosis is a tough disease for anyone to have, let alone a young boy. Sam was diagnosed with the disease when he was six years old. Since then he's had to manage the challenges that come with the disease: fear of respiratory infection, difficulty with gastro-intestinal issues, headaches, tiredness, and shortness of breath. To manage his Cystic Fibrosis, he takes time out of his everyday activities, play, and school, for life-essential daily treatments and regular hospital visits. Sam not only endures the challenges of his disease without complaint, he embraces them as part of his life.

Sam is teaching and modeling philanthropy for people of all ages. In 2009, Sam was asked by the Northern Ohio Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to be the honorary chairperson of a Kick-off to a Cure Tailgate Party to support the CF Foundation. He didn't passively take on the role; instead he took it on with gusto. When he learned that a \$10,000 sponsor of the event had backed out, he decided he would raise this money himself. He wrote letters to everyone he and his parents knew, as well as people he didn't know. He sent emails, he conducted media interviews, and he made numerous presentations. He recruited eight of his own friends who made contributions of their own. All this was done with poise, confidence, enthusiasm, creativity, and a little courage—at the actual event he had to make a presentation to more than 300 people. He wrote his own speech and wowed the audience. Sam's efforts were of his design and desire. Though his personal goal was to raise \$10,000 for the CF Foundation, he nearly TRIPLED this goal, raising more than \$27,000. Through example, Sam taught his family, his teachers and those around him that philanthropy and helping others can be done by anyone—even a young boy.

In 2010 he again helped the event raising another \$10,000 through support of family and friends.

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