

## 3RD ANNUAL CENTRAL FLORIDA WALK FOR CHILDHOOD STROKE AWARENESS

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The **3rd Annual Central Florida Walk for Childhood Stroke Awareness** event, sponsored by Melanie Livingstone, will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Red Bug Lake Park, Casselberry, Florida. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Children's Hemiplegia and Stroke Association (CHASA).

**CHASA is a 501(c)(3) is a not-for-profit organization**, founded in 1996, to serve those children affected by infant or childhood stroke. CHASA is the first organization of its kind in North America to offer information and support to families of infants, children, and young adults who have hemiplegia or hemiplegic cerebral palsy. The most common cause of hemiplegia in children is infant stroke or childhood stroke.

Below are just a few of the ways that CHASA uses funds to help these little stroke survivors.

### **Research – Support Investigators in the fields of Pediatric Stroke and Cerebral Palsy Research**

- Provide seed money for research pilot studies and fund international pediatric stroke symposium.
- Collaborate with investigators to assist in recruitment of participants for studies.
- Write letters of support for investigators who seek funding for studies.
- Provide information to families on the latest publications about pediatric stroke or hemiplegia.

### **Advocacy – Increase Awareness of Infant and Childhood Stroke**

Early diagnosis leads to early treatment. Early treatment is crucial because the ability to recover from brain injuries is highest in the very young.

- CHASA now serves over 2200 families of children with hemiplegia due to pediatric stroke or other causes through local meetings, online discussion groups and educational websites and integral campaigns.
- National Childhood Stroke Awareness Month Activities.
- Early Hand Preference is Not Normal campaign.
- CHASA volunteers attend health professional conferences to increase awareness of infant and childhood stroke among health care and childcare providers.

### **Support – Family Support and Education**

Since so little is known about childhood stroke, families are often very alone and isolate; most have never met another pediatric stroke survivor family. A connection with others to share support and information is crucial to maintaining a healthy family.

- CHASA's annual Family Retreat is attended by families from the US as well as Canada, Singapore and Europe.
- Professional speaker seminars and family fun days.
- College, trade school and retreat scholarships are available for young adults who have hemiplegia.