



PRESS RELEASE

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FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA RESEARCH ALLIANCE RECEIVES QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT FROM CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION

Springfield, Virginia- February 25, 2010- The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) is proud to announce that it has received a \$5,000 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. The Reeve Foundation awarded \$520,000 in Quality of Life grants to 75 non-profit organizations within the United States and Canada. Created by the late Dana Reeve in 1999, the Reeve Foundation's Quality of Life Grants are awarded twice a year to non-profit organizations that provide services and programs to individuals living with paralysis. Close to 1,600 grants totaling nearly \$13 million have been awarded to organizations since the program's inception.

FARA will use the grant to support its patient education and awareness program as well as expand the Ataxian Athlete Initiative founded in 2009 by Kyle Bryant. Bryant was diagnosed with Friedreich's ataxia at 17 years of age and he is on a crusade to find ways to educate the public, enable research into this devastating disease and empower others through inspiration and motivation. Through a competitive grant program, the Ataxian Athlete Initiative helps facilitate participation in physical activity for ataxian athletes by removing the cost barriers of adaptive cycling equipment.

In its inaugural year, the Ataxian Athlete Initiative (AAI) received 6 applications from aspiring Ataxian Athletes, and issued one grant award for a recumbent trike to applicant Nadia Robertson from Austin, Texas. Robertson states, "I don't plan to stop exercising until it becomes physically impossible, which I hope is never...I am already a wheelchair user so hopefully I can inspire Ataxians who are on my same level to stay as active as possible." The funding from the Reeve Foundation's Quality of Life Grant will allow AAI to award two grants in 2010. Application criteria will be announced in March 2010.

"We are grateful to the Reeve Foundation for this Quality of Life Grant which provides the resources to continue and expand the Ataxian Athlete Initiative," states Executive Director, Jennifer Farmer. "FARA is working tirelessly along with our academic and pharmaceutical partners to bring treatments that slow, stop, and reverse the effects of Friedreich's ataxia. Maintaining muscle strength and staying active are important components to independence and quality of life today but also in the future as therapeutics are discovered."

"The Quality of Life program that Dana Reeve created eleven years ago is based on freedom," said Peter T. Wilderotter, president and CEO of the Christopher & Dana Reeve

Foundation. "We are happy to be able to support FARA to create more independence, increase opportunities, and provide support for those living with paralysis along with their families and caregivers."

The Reeve Foundation's Quality of Life grants are divided into three categories, Actively Achieving, Bridging Barriers and Caring and Coping. Some grants are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Award #1U59DD000338), and are awarded to nonprofit organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases and birth conditions.

About the Reeve Foundation

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information, and to review the entire list of Quality of Life grant recipients, please visit our website at www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-225-0292.

About FARA

The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to accelerating research leading to treatments and a cure for Friedreich's ataxia. Please visit our website at <http://www.curefa.org> or call 484-875-3015.

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