

AJ Bradnam Tribute Fund

AJ was the son of Kathi Power (member of SCRW since 1988) and nephew of Tony Power.

In June of 1994, AJ was on a school trip and started coughing up blood. After a visit to our family physician, we were referred to a pediatric heart doctor and after an echocardiogram referred to the Hospital for Sick Children. Our first visit to HSC was in October, a week before AJ's 7th birthday and following a battery of tests, we were told that AJ had a heart condition that wasn't repairable, that for any chance of survival AJ would need a heart transplant.

In April of 1995, on the Monday of Organ Donation Awareness week, AJ's name was added to the heart transplant waiting list and we were handed our pager – time to wait. How fortunate that we only had to wait 12 days and we got the call – they had a match. AJ got a new heart on May 12th, 1995 – the day before Mother's day – best Mother's day ever. It was quite appropriate the donation from the St. Catharines Roadrunners & Walkers was presented to HSC during Organ Donation Awareness week.

SCRW have always been there for its members. Barry Bowslaugh, his wife and members of SCRW held a fundraiser to help cover the costs of staying in Toronto. AJ had a few set backs, but soon was back to the spunky kid he was. In August of 1995 – 3 months post transplant AJ insisted on running our 5k Peach run that we held at Navy Hall in NOTL. He ran a few more races, but mountain biking became his sport and competed in the Liberty 30k Squeezer events. AJ wanted to get the most out of his second chance and tried just about everything.

AJ died unexpectedly in January of 2006. My brother, Tony and Henri Ragetlie approached the club to use the Ultra race to raise funds in memory of AJ. The hard work and dedication of Tony, Henri and SCRW members to the running of the Ultra resulted in the \$15,000 donation that was made on April 24th, 2012. These funds will be used to put flat screen TV's in the patients' rooms in the transplant ward, help in sending kids to summer camp and to the transplant games. HSC was very grateful for the donation and thank all of you for your contribution. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tony, Henri and all of you for this wonderful gift in memory of my son AJ – I thank you from the bottom of my Heart! - Kathi