

# Dare To Hope Foundation News

bettering the lives of children with complex medical conditions

Issue # 3 09/20/2010



## Donate To WIN!



For every \$2 in donations you will be entered to win \$250 worth of Premier Designs Jewelry!

[Click Here For Details](#)

## 5 Ways To Help!

### Donate money!

Send checks payable to  
"Dare To Hope" to:  
PO Box 670953  
Marietta, Ga. 30066

### Donate Goods!

Cell phone chargers  
Gift Certificates  
Diapers & wipes  
Medical Equipment  
Raffle Prizes

### Shop!

Your favorite  
online retailers  
donate a portion of  
your purchase  
to DTH at no  
additional cost to you!  
[Give Back Mercia](#)

September 19-25 is Mitochondrial Disease Awareness week. In honor of those diagnosed with mitochondrial disease, awaiting diagnosis or suffering from the myriad of diagnoses related to mitochondrial dysfunction, we are delighted to offer an exclusive article written by Dr Fran Kendall of Virtual Medical Practice.

Mitochondrial dysfunction has been linked to diagnoses from Alzheimer's Disease to migraine headaches. The new advances in mitochondrial testing, diagnosis and research could prove to benefit many.

To learn more about mitochondrial disease, visit [United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation](#) and [Mito Action](#).

## Mitochondrial Disorders

### Mitochondrial Disorders

by Fran Kendall, MD  
CEO, Metabolic, Mitochondrial, and Inherited Disorders  
Virtual Medical Practice, LLC  
[www.virtualmdpractice.com](http://www.virtualmdpractice.com)



The mitochondria are the batteries or powerhouses of our body's cells producing the necessary energy to complete all of our bodily functions. The mitochondria are composed of many subunits or pieces that fit together like a jigsaw puzzle with the goal of creating energy packets known as ATP through a complex process involving oxygen and phosphate. There are over 1,000 genes that encode for the various proteins that come together to create the electron transport chain (the energy production pathway inside the mitochondria) that generates ATP.

Mitochondrial disorders are diseases that affect the body's ability to effectively convert the food we eat into energy through the electron transport chain resulting in decreased energy production and secondary problems for affected individuals. Current information indicates that 1 in 4,000 individuals may have a mitochondrial disorder. Problems found in affected patients can be widespread or local, similar to a power outage, and can include any number of problems such as developmental delays, low tone, seizures, hearing and vision problems, diabetes, enlarged, poorly functioning heart, liver failure, kidney disease, fatigue, autonomic dysfunction, weakness and many GI issues including poor feeding, failure to thrive and dysmotility. There are hundreds of sub-types of mitochondrial disease each somewhat unique but with many common threads such as fatigue or weakness that link the patients together.

The diagnosis of patients with mitochondrial disease can be difficult and, in the past, relied primarily on the use of invasive muscle testing to measure a given patient's ability to generate energy through the electron transport chain. However, this testing has its limitations and is not absolute resulting in both false positives and false negative results. Fortunately, a number of newer techniques have become available that allow patient evaluation to be less invasive and more....

*read full article [here](#)*

**Zazzle!**  
Visit our [Zazzle site](#)  
to purchase  
unique and fashionable  
awareness gear!  
t-shirts, hoodies,  
tote bags,  
stickers, key chains  
and more!

**Join!**  
Join us on  
[Facebook](#) & [Twitter!](#)

## Out & About

### Sat Sept 25th

- Run the Farm for FOCUS in Newnan 8am
- Gluten Free Vendor Fair in Norcross 9am-3pm
- Music For Megan in Alpharetta 5pm

For more details visit our [Georgia Interactive Calendar](#)

## Feature Child



### Meet Danielle

Danielle was born 10/25/2007 by C-section at 38 weeks gestation. Perfect, pink and healthy in every way. She was strong, had great sucking ability and could amazingly see across the room shortly after birth. But at 1 week old, Dani had her first seizure and began to vomit blood. By 6 months old, the smiles, weight bearing, and eye contact were gone. She was distant and started falling behind on milestones.

Danielle spent her 1st birthday in the hospital. She lost the ability to eat and suck from her bottle. A NG (nasogastric) tube was inserted for nutrition. On 11/03/2008 the muscle biopsy diagnosis came: Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy Complex 1 defect (at least).

Danielle lights up the life of all who meet her. Her family holds on to the hope that one day there will be treatment or a cure for mitochondrial disease.

## DTH UPDATE

### Toy & Diaper Drive

As our toy & diaper drive comes to a close, we would like to thank the following businesses, groups and individuals for taking the time to make our first drive a success!

- The West Cobb Senior's Book Group
- The AAUW Book Group
- Age Magerfleisch with Premier Designs Jewelry
- Kristi Webb & Friends
- The Chevin 7 Playgroup
- The Severtis Family
- The Gareau Family
- Dr Colon with Pediatric Professionals
- Beth Herr with Crabbapple
- Zach, our wonderful inspiration!

Thank you to all who participated & donated toys, diapers and wipes to help children with complex medical issues! Our next drive will take place in Feb!



**When the world says, "Give up,"  
Hope whispers, "Try it one more time."  
~Author Unknown**

Yours with HOPE,  
Gina Gareau-Clark  
Executive Program Director  
The Ainsley Paige Higgins' Dare To Hope Foundation, Inc.  
[www.dare-to-hope.org](http://www.dare-to-hope.org)

