

Rockhampton family to go the distance for sick kids

This August, a Rockhampton family will be tying on their running shoes to support sick kids in this year's 42k Your Way challenge, raising funds for the Children's Hospital Foundation.

Alfie Schoeler isn't even one year old, but he's already spent one third of his short life in hospital in Brisbane undergoing medical treatment, after he was diagnosed with L1CAM Syndrome – an extremely rare chromosomal disorder that affects 1 in 600,000 boys.

For Alfie, his diagnosis also included hydrocephalus, Hirschsprungs Disease, cerebral palsy, Agensis of the Corpus Callosum, amblyopia, nystagmus and chronic bronchitis, as every child with L1CAM Syndrome presents differently.

With the odds stacked against him from birth, many doctors believed he wouldn't survive birth, so his parents, Jelicia and Joseph, prepared for the worst.

He had his first procedure within an hour of being born, with neurosurgeons performing a brain tap to release excess fluid from his head.

Finally, after three more operations and a couple of months of recovery at Queensland Children's Hospital, Alfie was well enough to return to Rockhampton and finally meet his family for the first time. However they didn't stay at home for long.

"After just ten days, I headed back down to Queensland Children's Hospital with Alfie for a check-up, and there was a problem with his shunt. I was only expecting to be there for one night and had packed accordingly, but the Children's Hospital Foundation were incredible and ensured I had enough clothing and food for the unexpected longer stay," Jelicia said.

"They have been there to help make a terrible situation bearable. Life isn't easy, but it's worth every minute to have Alfie in our family".

With a fundraising goal of \$2500, Jelicia and Joseph will be walking 1.5km in Rockhampton every day of August to complete their 42k, with Alfie and his sisters, Lyla and Ava.

Children's Hospital Foundation CEO, Rosie Simpson, has commended Flynn for his incredible support.

"We were delighted that Alfie and his family have decided to support other kids going through a similar journey to him by participating in 42k Your Way," she said.

"Everything we do is for kids and young people just like Alfie and his family, and it's a true privilege that they are choosing to raise awareness for Children's Hospital Foundation.

"I encourage Queenslanders from right across the state to get behind Alfie by donating or registering to go the distance for sick kids this August. I can't wait to see what the community can achieve when they come together."

To donate to help The Schoeler's reach their goal or join Alfie's team, visit <https://www.42kyourway.org.au/fundraisers/alfiesteam>.

42k Your Way is a free, virtual event that you can do on your own, from anywhere, at any time. With every step, hop, jump or stroke, you'll be getting fit and helping sick kids like Alfie. For more information on 42k Your Way, or to register, visit www.42kyourway.org.au/.

ENDS

Media contact:

A PO Box 8009
Woolloongabba QLD 4102
E info@childrens.org.au

P 1300 742 554
W www.childrens.org.au
ABN 11 607 902 687

Lucinda Bayly, Media & Communications Manager at Children's Hospital Foundation
P: 3068 2036 | E: lucinda.bayly@childrens.org.au OR media@childrens.org.au

About the Children's Hospital Foundation

The Children's Hospital Foundation works wonders for sick and injured kids by funding vital research, new equipment, and providing entertainment and support for children and their families in hospital. We are committed to making a difference in the fight against childhood illness and injury so every child can grow up as happy and healthy as possible. For more about the Children's Hospital Foundation, visit www.childrens.org.au

To sign up to 42k Your Way, scan the QR Code below:

