



Contact: Lisa Maher
lmaher@childrenscardiomyopathy.org
866-808-2873

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation Partners with 20 Organizations to Raise Awareness of Deadly Heart Disease

Families Urged to #KnowYourHeart during Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month in September

TENAFLY, N.J.—September 1, 2021— The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) and 20 allied organizations are participating in Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month in September to bring attention to pediatric cardiomyopathy, a chronic and potentially life-threatening disease that affects the heart's ability to pump blood through the body. The month's activities will call attention to the signs, symptoms, and risk factors for cardiomyopathy and sudden cardiac arrest.

Diagnosing children with cardiomyopathy can be challenging because symptoms are not always obvious. Often referred to as a "silent killer," those with cardiomyopathy who are not diagnosed face a higher risk of sudden cardiac death, particularly if they are a competitive athlete. According to the American Heart Association, each year more than 7,000 children aged 18 years and younger suffer a sudden cardiac arrest, and 90% are fatal.

Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month encourages parents, physicians, nurses, coaches, teachers, and community leaders to be aware of the signs and symptoms of cardiomyopathy in order to identify at-risk children and direct them to the appropriate medical care. Increased attention in this area can help prevent sudden death.

Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month was launched in 2014 by CCF, a national nonprofit founded in 2002 by Lisa Yue, a mother who lost two children to cardiomyopathy. "As students head back to school, we encourage parents and school officials to learn more about pediatric cardiomyopathy and be prepared for any cardiac emergency," said Yue. "We also want to highlight the importance of knowing your family's history of cardiovascular disease to assess your risk level. Often, families are unaware if someone in their family had a heart condition and died young or suddenly."

Throughout the month, CCF and partners will engage in activities to educate others about the seriousness of cardiomyopathy and the measures that need to be taken to protect youth from sudden cardiac death. This also includes encouraging families to #KnowYourHeart and learn about their family's cardiac health history.

[Learn more about Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month.](#)

24 West Railroad Avenue, Suite 408 • Tenafly, New Jersey • 07670 • childrenscardiomyopathy.org

Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month Partners

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Cardiology
- American Heart Association
- American School Health Association
- Conquering CHD
- Harboring Hearts
- Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA)
- Mended Little Hearts
- National Alliance for Youth Sports
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of School Nurses
- National Athletic Trainer's Association
- National Coalition for Infant Health
- Parent Heart Watch
- Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health
- Pediatric Congenital Heart Association
- Sarcomeric Human Cardiomyopathy Registry (SHaRe)
- Student National Medical Association
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation
- The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

About the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) is a national organization focused on finding causes and cures for pediatric cardiomyopathy. The Foundation was established in 2002 to accelerate research and education, increase public awareness and advocacy, and offer support services to affected families. Since then, CCF has grown into a global community of families, physicians, and scientists, raising more than \$16 million in support of its mission.

###