



A Mother's Determination For

A Cure

Christmas 2009 the tree was up, presents wrapped and the house decorated. Peggy Schapler was pediatrician bound with her two-year old, Davis. The visit was a combination of a cold and to discuss Davis's recent increased urination, thirst and irritability; all symptoms of type 1 diabetes. Davis's blood sugar test and a trip to Phoenix Children's Hospital confirmed the inconceivable diagnosis.

T1D typically presents in children and young adults. The disease cannot be outgrown. T1D accounts for 5-10% of all people with diabetes, the result of a non-functioning pancreas that doesn't break down insulin.

Peggy tells people, "T1D picked the wrong family." The family was introduced to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) as a resource. Their mission is to turn Type 1 into Type None. The Schaplers made it their mission, too.

The local JDRF chapter raises funds, hosts local events and educates patients and the public about T1D. One signature program is a summer camp for T1D children, ages 8-15, in Prescott. Summer campers descend upon Camp Soaring Eagle to play and experience the healing power of laughter. Executive Director, Paula Boca-Bommarito, describes camp as "an opportunity for children living with the enduring chronic illness of T1D to make lifelong friends and it allows them to not feel so alone in their journey."

Since 2010, the Schapler family has raised over \$155,000 for JDRF through a variety of fundraising opportunities. Peggy is also a member of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun. JDRF has received funding from their Ahwatukee group twice in the past two years, most recently in February. To date, Peggy's group has delivered over \$18,000 in donations, sending numerous kids to camp.

"If you ask people with T1D, they will tell you it is a daily challenge and



can be life threatening. They endure it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year...it never goes away," reflected Peggy. "Davis is our hero as he endures a minimum of 6 daily blood sugar checks accompanied by a minimum of 5 shots, aka "pokes" of insulin a day in order to stay alive. He cannot eat, sleep or play sports without thinking about his T1D."

The next meeting of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun is May 2 at the Foothills Golf Club. Visit www.100wvcvalleyofthesun.org or www.JDRF.org to learn more about these organizations.

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