

DREAM BIG Gala Hosted by Jacob's Cure

Jacob's Cure, a non-profit foundation created to find a cure for Canavan, a fatal genetic brain disease, hosted the DREAM BIG gala on May 20, 2010, at Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers, in New York City. Over 800 attendees from the Tri-State region attended the event, honoring long-time board members, Farrel and Steven Starker, CEO of BTIG LLC. The BIG DREAM gala raised nearly \$1.5M to find a lifesaving treatment for Canavan children around the world.

Jacob's Cure was founded by Rye resident, Jordana Hologach, to save her son, Jacob, who was diagnosed with Canavan Disease at six months

ease. This stem cell research may very well revolutionize the manner in which "white matter" neurological diseases, such as Parkinson's, MS and ALS, are treated and will be a model for their cure.

The event was hosted by Donny Deutsch, TV personality and Chairman of Deutsch Inc. and guests such as Eli Manning, and Jaslene Gonzalez. The Starker family of Westchester joined the Jacob's Cure board in September 2000 when Jordana Hologach launched the foundation. Since then they have raised more than two million dollars for the fight against Canavan disease.

"Farrel and Steven have worked tirelessly to support Jacob's Cure over the last ten years," said Hologach. "With federal funding for research in Canavan disease limited, particularly as a result of the economic crisis, it is the work of individuals like the Starkers that makes the difference



L TO R:
DONNY DEUTSCH, HOST OF CNBC'S "THE BIG IDEA" AND THE "DREAM BIG" GALA,
WITH JORDANA HOLOVACH.

BTIG CEO STEVEN STARKER, HIS WIFE, FARREL, AND FAMILY WERE HONORED FOR
THEIR DEDICATION AND EFFORTS IN HELPING WESTCHESTER NEIGHBOR, JORDANA
HOLOVACH, MOTHER AND FOUNDER OF JACOB'S CURE, WITH THE INAUGURAL
"DREAM BIG" GALA ON MAY 20TH.

WESTCHESTER RESIDENTS STEVEN STARKER AND JORDANA HOLOVACH AT THE
"DREAM BIG" GALA STAND WITH GIANT'S QUARTERBACK, ELI MANNING, WHO
SUPPORTS RESEARCH FOR CAUSES LIKE CANAVAN.

BRIAN MARCUS/ FRED MARCUS PHOTOGRAPHY

old. Children with Canavan become trapped in their bodies, develop seizures, lose their ability to see and swallow, and die in the first decade of life. The research funded by Jacob's Cure has slowed or halted the progression of the disease in most of the children who received gene-therapy and have begun the recommended pharmacological regimen. While there is currently no cure for Canavan Disease, Jacob's Cure is funding a stem cell trial that aims to further treat and ultimately cure Canavan dis-

ease. This stem cell research may very well revolutionize the manner in which "white matter" neurological diseases, such as Parkinson's, MS and ALS, are treated and will be a model for their cure. With a nod to Wall Street, Jacob's Cure attributes its advancement in research to the generosity Steven has rallied from his colleagues all year, but particularly during BTIG's Commissions for Charity Day where Jacob's Cure is amongst many children's charities that receive sizeable donations.

Funds raised from the gala will support a phase 1 clinical stem cell trial for twenty Canavan children. This cutting edge research is the result of a partnership Jacob's Cure initiated with Geron Corporation, who is providing the stem cells. While not the norm for a biotech company to have an interest in a rare disease, Geron jumped on the opportunity to work with the Canavan researchers led by Dr. Paola Leone (UMDNJ) because they are established leaders in the field of clinical research and Canavan has proven to be an excellent model for bigger white matter diseases such as Parkinson's and MS. "We are proud to collaborate with Dr. Paola Leone and the Canavan research team on developing a stem cell based treatment for Canavan disease, and we are especially grateful for Jacob's Cure's support of the research" explains Ed Wirth, M.D., Ph.D. Medical Director of Regenerative Medicine for Geron Corporation. www.jacobscure.org ❀