



CdLS Foundation

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation, Inc.

Reaching Out, Providing Help, Giving Hope

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Paul or Beth Patitucci, 215-542-9045

Karaoke party benefits children with little-known genetic syndrome

MONTGOMERYVILLE, PA (September 6, 2007)—American Idol wannabees can sing their hearts out at the third annual *CdLS Idol Karaoke Dance Party*. The event takes place Saturday, October 6, at Village Caterers and benefits children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS), a little-known genetic syndrome. The fundraiser is organized by Beth and Paul Patitucci of Dresher, whose son Andrew has CdLS.

The event runs from 6 to 10 p.m. and features dinner, open bar with wine and beer, a DJ, dancing, and karaoke. There will also be door prizes and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for children under 12. Money raised goes to the national CdLS Foundation. For information on the event, or to buy tickets, call Beth or Paul Patitucci, 215-542-9045.

CdLS occurs in about 1 in 10,000 births. An estimated 20,000 people in the US have CdLS but remain undiagnosed. Although individuals with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, most have similar physical characteristics: small hands and head, thin eyebrows that meet, long eyelashes, upturned nose, and thin, downturned lips. Children develop both physically and mentally much slower than their peers. Some have limb differences, missing limbs or partial joining of the toes. Common medical problems include reflux, bowel abnormalities, heart defects, seizures, and cleft palate.

Founded in 1981, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation is a family support organization that exists to ensure early and accurate diagnosis of CdLS, promote research into the causes and manifestations of the syndrome, and help people with a diagnosis of CdLS make informed decisions throughout their lifetime. For more information, call 800-753-2357 or go to www.cdlsusa.org.