

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SOUTH KINGSTON NEIGHBORS UNITE TO RAISE RESEARCH FUNDS FOR
LOCAL GIRL WITH INCURABLE DISORDER**

**–Join “Grace’s Courage Crusade” to Support Treatments and Cures
for Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disorder–**

South Kingston, RI (July 1, 2008)– Organizers of “Grace’s Courage Crusade” invite you to join them at the West Valley Inn on July 25th for a summer time Dinner Dance fundraiser to benefit seven year-old Grace Caldarone who has the incurable Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) disorder. The fundraiser’s festivities include a dinner buffet, dancing, silent auction, live auction and raffle. DJ Eddie the Fixer will entertain with a selection of hit songs. Tickets are \$40.00 per person and all proceeds benefit the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association’s Strategy to Accelerate Research (STAR™). STAR offers the promise of treatments and cures for those with CMT and similar neuromuscular disorders in the foreseeable future.

Charcot-Marie-Tooth disorder is the most commonly inherited peripheral neuropathy affecting one in 2,500 people –approximately 2.6 million people worldwide. It causes the nerve cells leading to the body’s extremities to slowly degenerate resulting in loss of normal use of the arms/hands and legs/feet. In Grace’s case, CMT causes her to fall frequently and have constant difficulty walking. She struggles with doing things most people take for granted, like holding a pencil, opening a jar and buttoning her clothes.

“Grace is a courageous girl who inspires everyone around her with her determination in dealing with her limitations,” said neighbor and one of the event organizers, Tonia Hassell. “What keeps Grace and her family going is the hope that a cure is just around the corner.”

For tickets, or to donate items to the raffle and silent auction, contact Tonia Hassell at 401.782.3574 by July 18th. Tax deductible donations on behalf of “Grace’s Courage Crusade” can also be made to the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association by calling 1-800-606-2682 or online at www.charcot-marie-tooth.org/Grace.php. The West Valley Inn is located at 4 Blossom Street, West Warwick, RI.

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Editor’s note: To schedule an interview with the Caldarone family or event organizers, please contact Lori Garvey at 412.381.5400 x107 or lgarvey@gmdadv.com.