

Press Release



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For immediate release

Lucy & Anthony Hardwidge participate in the Great North Run to raise money for a charity very close to their hearts.

Lucy & Anthony Hardwidge are planning to run the Great North Run on the 30th September 2007 to raise money for two charities very close to their hearts, *Great Ormond Street Hospital* and little known charity *Caring Matters Now*; a charity dedicated to supporting individuals who suffer from Congenital Melanocytic Naevi (CMN).

CMN is the medical term for large rare birthmark present in newborn babies that can represent potential health risk to the child. The birthmarks are often disfiguring, can cause interference with the brain and spinal cord, causing developmental delay, fits, unsteadiness and clumsiness as well as the risk of malignancy.

Between Lucy and Anthony they plan to raise at least £1,500 to split between the two charities. Fay, their daughter who is now 2 years old was born with a large disfiguring CMN, which covers about 70% of her body capacity. It runs from her shoulder blades, around her tummy and down to both knees with several additional satellites. She has undergone 4 operations in her short life and will have to learn to live with the special mark she has been born with.

Fay is a regular visitor to Great Ormond Street where she sees specialists who are starting the scientific research into the causes and treatments of CMN. The support group Caring Matters Now provides much needed support and raises the vital funds for the research to take place.

The charity founder, Jodi Unsworth knows about the anxieties and strains experienced by individuals suffering from CMN and their families, and wanted to help support them and provide advice to help all CMN sufferers through the tough times ahead. Lucy, Fay's mum has been working hard with the charity as a committee member to raise awareness of the condition and also help raise the much needed £30,000 a year to fund the research.

Lucy says 'We have received such support from both the specialists at Great Ormond Street and the support group, that we wanted to give something back. Through the great support from friends and family as well as a local company in Stapleford called CBA Design and Marketing, who have produced some great marketing material, free of charge for the charity, we have been able to raise awareness and provide funds for the vital research.'

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So, the ultimate challenge for Lucy and Anthony is fast approaching. The Great North Run is happening on Sunday 30th September 2007 in Newcastle.