



International Vasa Previa Foundation

It only takes a moment to diagnose life...

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THE INTERNATIONAL VASA PREVIA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES IT'S FOURTH ANNUAL GLOBAL WALK

Sophie's Walk for Vasa Previa is sponsored by the International Vasa Previa Foundation (IVPF), a non-profit organization founded by parents and families who have been affected by vasa previa, to take place around the world during 48-hour period to raise funds for vasa previa research and awareness for prevention of infant deaths

MOLINE, IL— September 5, 2006— Sophie's 5K Walk for Vasa Previa is taking place on Saturday and Sunday, September 30 and October 1 2006 in 50 cities around the world. Someone somewhere around the world will be walking during this entire 48 hour period to generate awareness and raise funds for the prevention of infant deaths from vasa previa!

Vasa previa is a rarely (1:2500) reported condition in which fetal blood vessel(s) from the placenta or umbilical cord cross the entrance to the birth canal, beneath the baby. The condition has a high fetal mortality rate if not diagnosed prenatally (50-90%), and an almost 100% survival rate when diagnosed prenatally.

Teams and communities will have the opportunity to come together for a fun-filled event while making a tremendous difference in preventing infant deaths from vasa previa. The Walk was started in 2002 to raise funds for the Foundation by Victoria Goldstein-Macadar. Ms. Goldstein-Macadar lost her daughter Sophie Isabelle Macadar in August of 2001 to undiagnosed vasa previa.

News Release

Sophie's Walk has been adopted by the IVPF as the single most important fundraiser of the year and takes place the first weekend of October every year all around the world. Funds raised through Sophie's walk are helping bring the IVPF a step closer to eliminating infant death from vasa previa. To date, the IVPF had been solely funded by private donations and funds raised by Sophie's Walk.

"When a child loses his parents, he is called an orphan, but when parents lose their child, there isn't a word to describe them," said Victoria Goldstein-Macadar, "This is the reason why I am now committed to prevent anybody else from going through what I have gone through."

"Sophie's Walk needs to be a big success this year, more than ever. We are so close to that standard of care!" stated Cindy Paris, Secretary of the IVPF. "Thanks to the funds raised by Sophie's Walk in previous years, we have completed a mailing to more than 5,000 hospitals throughout the world and continue to attend medical conferences to share our cause and information. As a result, more and more hospitals are calling us for speakers. Our members keep finding new and important medical conferences to attend. At the rate we are going we won't last out next year without a very successful walk this year," concluded Ms. Paris.

Raising awareness of a condition that is, in most cases, not looked for nor mentioned by doctors, not part of the standard of care and rarely covered by the media, is harder than one thinks. Through events such as Sophie's Walk, this group of strong and inspirational individuals hopes that someday soon diagnosing vasa previa prenatally becomes a standard practice resulting in an end to this avoidable tragedy.

The International Vasa Previa Foundation (IVPF) was established in January 2001 by parents and families affected by vasa previa to raise awareness of vasa previa and to prevent fatal fetal outcomes. The IVPF agrees that vasa previa can, but should not be, a devastating complication of pregnancy. Despite its severity, it is commonly unrecognized by women, midwives, and obstetricians. Despite the technology existing to detect vasa previa prenatally, it is rarely diagnosed prior to the onset of labor and sometimes, fatal decisions are made during labor and delivery.

For more information, visit the International Vasa Previa Foundation at IVPF.org or SophiesWalk.org