David's Dream Run
David Elementary School
Est. 1994
Sponsor Packet

A COMMUNITY EFFORT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE DAVID CENTER AT TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND HELP THE WORLD LIVE LIFE THOUGH DAVID'S DREAMS

David Vetter's Story … a true local hero



David Vetter touched millions of hearts around the globe without ever leaving his sterile, plastic bubble. The world knew him as David, the Bubble Boy. David was born with a genetic immune disorder called SCID, or Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease, which robbed him of any germ-fighting ability. In 1984, at the age of 12, David lost his life after an operation that doctors had hoped would free him from his germ-free environment.

David lived with his family in the Montgomery County community of Shenandoah. Teachers from nearby Lamar Elementary and Wilkerson Intermediate came to his home to tutor him. He was sometimes able to participate in classroom activities via a special telephone hookup.

At the 1990 dedication of David Elementary, Carol Ann Demaret spoke proudly of her son who loved school, telling a rapt audience that the school "is an answering of our prayers that his spirit continues on Earth." That speech continues to inspire David Elementary.

Now, each year the school holds its annual David's Dream Run, a community wide 5k and 1 mile run/walk to raise money for The David Center at Texas Children's Hospital. The center was established after David's death. David Elementary School, in particular, has been very loyal over the years in providing an extra measure of support for The David Center. David's Dream Run is a constant reminder for our school and community to help one another "touch the world."

Texas Children's Hospital®

Dream Run Mission Statement

The purpose of this event is to honor the life of David Vetter. By celebrating David's dream of running barefoot through the grass, we help teach the students of David Elementary the importance of helping others. Finally, we seek to raise money for the David Center at Texas Children's Hospital.



A Special Letter from David's Mother

What one race and Texas Children's Hospital mean to a family and David Elementary School



Dear Friends,
When our son David was born in 1971, a genetic defect decreed that he would have no immune system. For centuries, children like David survived only a few months after birth. David was the pioneer in the treatment of the affliction called Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease, also known by the fearsome acronym SCID. His cure was impossible at the time, but it seemed so close. The doctors thought they could isolate David from the deadly world around him. They placed him in a bubble that was to become his new home. They studied the problem of his absent immune system. They worked and waited until finally, the possibility for a cure seemed in sight.
A loving world watched David with his family and prayed along with them. David's valiant decision to give the new treatment a try didn't work. God answers all prayers, but sometimes the answer is "No, not now." We wept, waited, and hoped that his bold and gallant life held some meaning that we couldn't understand.

We have been told that what was learned through our precious son has helped place medicine on a path of correcting such genetic defects that afflicted him. SCID and other primary immune deficiencies can be life threatening and corrode the quality of life of a child or young adult. We know that the lives of many children have been saved through the knowledge available at The David Center at Texas Children's Hospital in The Woodlands.

The physicians and researchers at Texas Children's Hospital are proud to play an integral role, amongst many others who lobbied for change. The state of Texas has now implemented newborn screening for SCID.

As of 2018, newborn screening for SCID is conducted across all 50 U.S. States, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Navajo Nation. With your help and support - science can continue to devote time to research, patient and family care, and to offer an answer to OUR prayer, "that the bubble has burst for all time."
All proceeds from David's Dream Run benefit The David Center. We want to thank you in advance for your consideration and support.
Sincerely, David's Family:
David J. Vetter Jr.
Katherine Vetter Canion
Carol Ann Vetter Demaret















A Few Facts About David's Life



- David's space suit, which David wore 5 times, was designed and constructed by NASA and was gifted to The Smithsonian where it is still safely protected.
- David lived mostly at home in Shenandoah with his parents and sister, but he also enjoyed his visits to the hospital.
- The media protected David's last name.
- David had a private showing of "Star Wars - Return of the Jedi" at a local theater.
- David enjoyed giving out Halloween candy to neighborhood children.
- David never tasted warm food, but he never complained.
- It was said that David had above average intelligence.
- His sister, Katherine, slept alongside his bubble until she was age 13.

What is David Day?

The children at David Elementary spend a day honoring David's life with different activities.



Ask the students >>>

Q: What do you love the most about David's Dream Run?

A: We are kids helping other kids!

Benefits to Our Sponsors

Supports Texas Children's Hospital in finding a cure for immunologic diseases

Involves a culture of caring

Promotes a community presence that demonstrates the company's willingness to invest in the health and well-being of others

Race Facts



David's Dream Run has been in existence for 30+ years. The first race was held in the Knox Jr High parking lot. Others were held at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion and Market Street. The tradition of honoring David continues at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

Fun Run/Walk -
1 mile and/or 5k

We are proud to have raised over $716,000 for Texas Children's Hospital!



The David Clinic at Texas Children's Hospital - The Woodlands: *Continued Growth*

The David Clinic opened in 2016 thanks to the unwavering support of the children and parents at David Elementary School, and the inspiration of David's mother, Mrs. Carol Ann Demaret, a tireless advocate of children born with immunology disorders. The mission of the David Clinic is to provide up-to date, personalized care, to children with allergic, immunologic and rheumatologic conditions. Because of its location in The Woodlands, services are most convenient for those living in proximity, reducing the need for long commutes for specialized care.



Some of the highlights include:

- The Allergy and Immunology clinical service has seen an increase of patient visits per month to about 700, being one of the busiest clinical services at Texas Children's Hospital.
- Our expertise in the evaluation and management of immunodeficiency has been essential to attend to the needs of patients not only from The Woodlands area but also from as far as Beaumont and El Paso, Texas.
- Patients with uncommon immunological conditions are diagnosed and treated. In one of our recent cases, a 13 year old boy was evaluated in our clinic because of frequent infections interfering with his daily activities. Our clinic found that he carried a gene defect that had not been described before, responsible for a breach of his immune defenses. Together with our infectious disease specialists, we designed a management plan that allows him to be free of infection long term, significantly improving his quality of life.
- In addition to the focus on immunological disorders in children, The David Clinic sees patients with food and environmental allergies, helping with the identification of the triggers for allergic reactions and proper treatment, including allergy immunotherapy or "allergy shots."
- Patients with rheumatologic conditions are treated by rheumatology experts with state of the art management which decrease pain and swelling in children with chronic diseases like juvenile arthritis and lupus.
- The David Clinic is invested in further research and knowledge. This past year we have participated in the education of numerous Texas medical residents in the care and management of children with primary immunodeficiencies.
- The David Clinic plans to continue providing patient care with excellence, maintain its efforts to satisfy the needs of the children in our community, and improve the long term care and in-depth understanding of allergic, immunologic and rheumatologic conditions.

David's Dream Run