

THE TOWN COURIER

U R B A N A

On Sunday, March 30, the Urbana High School (UHS) Interact Club will be hosting a run in honor of Dillon Papier – a Run for a Cure. This event will include a 5K hybrid run and a 1K family run. The day will conclude with a celebratory picnic and children’s baseball game.

Eleven-year-old Papier has been living with an extremely rare disease, Niemann-Pick Type C (NPC), since he was three. The disease, which includes neurological symptoms, is so rare that Papier has one of only 500 known cases in the world. But Papier is still strong and continues to enjoy his childhood. In fact, he does not let NPC stop him from living his life much like any other 11 year old: You can find him on the baseball field enjoying every play.

UHS Senior Katherine McKee has known Papier and his family for many years and thought of Dillon when planning this year’s local project for the Interact Club.

Members of the club meet every other Friday afternoon, and have been putting many hours of preparation into this anticipated event. McKee, treasurer of the Interact Club, described the preparation as “a lot of communication with other people.” She helped create the flyers, design T-shirts and publicize the event on the radio.

Jeremy Nguyen, also a senior at UHS and a board member of the Interact Club, has been a part of the club since his junior year. He has set up the website for sign ups, helped create the flyer and researched sources for porta-potties.

Senior Tyler McDonald, a first year member of Interact, helped oversee the logistics for the event. McDonald is the volunteer organizer and has helped with marketing for the event. It will be “[a] really fun time, and if you are not there you will be missing out,” he said.

McKee, Nguyen and McDonald are all looking forward to seeing their hard work come together, and seeing Dillon.



Photo | Submitted

This month, the Urbana High School Interact Club hosts Run for a Cure. Held on March 30, this event will raise funds for the National Niemann-Pick Disease Foundation, which honors Urbana resident Dillon Papier (pictured here), one of 500 people in the world with a rare strain of this disease.

Darrile and Mark Papier, Dillon's parents, first heard about this event from McKee months ago. "[We are] overwhelmed that Dillon was selected," said Darrile. She and her husband are grateful to the community and the students for organizing this event which, said Darrile, "Provides us [with] strength and encouragement to continue to fight for a cure."

Run for the Cure will feature two races. Starting off the event is the 5K Hybrid run at 9 a.m., designed to be family friendly. The run will traverse many terrains, including grass and concrete. At 10 a.m. there will be a 1K family walk.

A celebratory picnic and a children's pick-up wiffle ball game will be held after the race. Food for the picnic can be donated on the day of the race. "It will be very relaxed atmosphere, so everyone can enjoy their time," said McKee.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the event, for \$1 per ticket. Raffle prizes include a month-long membership at Sarge Athletics training facility, and two baseball lessons with a pro baseball player. Each of the prizes are valued at \$100.

All money that is raised from this event will be donated to the National Niemann-Pick Disease Foundation. The Interact Club's goal is to raise \$5,000.

The event will be held at the McKeever land, on 3338-B Prices Distillery Road in Ijamsville. If the event is rained out, it will be held on April 6.

To run or walk in one of the events please visit www.active.com/ijamsville-md/running/distance-running-races/5k-for-dillon-papier-2014. Sign up before March 29 for an early discount, or sign up at the event for \$30.

If you cannot participate in the race but still want to donate to the Nieman Pick Foundation please send checks to UHS Interact Club, Southern Frederick County Rotary, P.O. Box 41, Monrovia, Md., 21770.

Editor's Note: Morgan McGrady is a junior at Urbana High School. McGrady lives in the Urbana Highlands, is involved at Mountain View Community Church as student leader and is passionate about reporting on community topics.