

Seven Sisters youth making his move at fundraiser

By Arlene Davidson

Luc Young of Seven Sisters Falls will be celebrating his fifth birthday by raising funds for the Movement Centre of Manitoba.

On June 23, Luc and his family will be participating in The Perogy Run. The event is raising funds for the Movement Centre – an independently operated organization established in 1997 that strives to improve physical health of children

and adults with movement disorders. Their individualized programs and therapies are effective for individuals with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, stroke, acquired brain injury and Parkinson’s Disease.

Luc and his mother Kristy travel to the Movement Centre twice a week where Luc participates in Conductive Education programs designed to address the neurological condition that affects his mobility.

They have registered for the two-kilometre team event in the Perogy Run and have already engaged a group of 14 family members and friends including Luc’s father Dan, his little sister Jacqueline, all four grandparents and aunts and uncles as part of the team.

The articulate five-year-old has a fascination with space and can rattle off all the planets in order without hesitation. He selected the team name, Luc’s Shining Stars all by himself.

“All money raised is going to the Movement Centre, which has been an amazing place for Luc. They have helped him so much,” said Kristy. “We are very fortunate to have a place like this in Winnipeg, especially when there aren’t many other resources for kids with neurological disorders.”

Kristy said they were fortunate that Lac du Bonnet Physio took Luc on as a patient providing valuable treatments to slow progression of muscle deterioration.

The Movement Centre is taking him to the next step toward independence. Olivia Doerksen, executive director of the Movement Centre, said 100 per cent of the funds raised from the Perogy Run go to the Conductive Education programs.

“Every year, we need to raise approximately \$600,000 in order to continue to keep program fees affordable for Manitoba families who need us,” Doerksen said. “Conductive Education helps children like Luc gain independence, confidence and mobility, allowing him to reach his full potential.”

Kristy stressed how important these funds are to families that are not fortunate enough to have private insurance coverage.

“When we took Luc to



Photo by Arlene Davidson

Luc Young and his mother Kristy are preparing for the Perogy Run in Winnipeg to raise funds for the Movement Centre of Manitoba.

the Shriner’s Hospital in Toronto they recommended that he have physiotherapy at least one hour per week, but the government only covers one hour per month,” explained Kristy. “We have coverage, but many families don’t. The funds raised from the Perogy Run are used to subsidize treatment fees.”

Luc said he was very excited to participate in the event.

“I can’t wait for the Perogy (Run) with all my friends and family. I’m going to run,” said Luc, who anxiously demonstrated how he can now walk the full length of the hallway in his home without using his walker.

In addition to the structured programs, Luc says he also enjoys crafts and activities like puzzles and obstacle courses and that he has made many new friends at the Movement Centre. He also recently made his Mom a tulip for Mothers Day.

Kristy said this is the first year that the Movement Centre is hosting the Perogy Run, and she hopes it will be a great success.

“Even if we can’t generate more donations I would love for people to know the Movement Centre exists,” she added. “No one told me about this place. I stumbled across it by Googling for resources that may help Luc.”

Luc and Kristy invite the

public to support the Perogy Run by making an online donation through the Movement Centre website at movementcentre.ca. Once on the site, open the link to Events, Perogy Run and click on team name Luc’s Rising Stars located under the Running Room pledge participant tab.

Kristy would like to thank everyone who has supported Luc on his venture to date, including Hannah Lussier, Luc’s piano teacher, who pledged \$100 and set up a donation box for him at Vivo Harmonics studio.

A pledge sheet for Luc’s Shining Stars can also be found at the Sunova Credit Union in Lac du Bonnet.

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