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THE ENQUIRER

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March of Dimes names Ambassador family

BY ALLEN HOWARD | AHOWARD@ENQUIRER.COM

A Blanchester family that experienced the third-longest delayed premature birth in medical history 10 years ago has been selected as the March of Dimes Ambassador Family for the 2007 Clinton/Highland County WalkAmerica.

Court and Jennifer Furber have two children, Jahnae and Christopher.

Jennifer Furber began contractions in the 18th week of pregnancy, but did not deliver until 102 days later, Oct 31, 1996 at Good Samaritan Hospital.

She said Jahnae and Christopher are part of triplets. The first baby was stillborn on July 21 after only 18 weeks.

"I am very passionate about helping to educate women about premature births," said Jennifer Furber, a communication specialist at DHL Express. "I learned a lot going through this and we are proud to be the Ambassador Family for WalkAmerica."

Larry Przybylski, director of Hub Service Support at DHL Express, will serve as honorary chair of the walk.

"I work with Jennifer and Court and have gotten to know about the complications that the Furber family experienced with their pregnancy and premature births 10 years ago," Przybylski said. "Fortunately, Jahnae and Chris are healthy children today, but that's not the case for other babies born too soon and too small."

Statistics show that one of every eight babies born in Clinton and Highland counties is premature.

WalkAmerica will start at 10 a.m. Sept 22 at J.W. Denver Williams Jr. Memorial Park, Wilmington.

WalkAmerica will feature a five-mile walk and a new family-friendly, two-mile route, both of which will begin and end at the park.

Registration will start at 9 a.m. Free food and beverages will be available after the walk.

Walkers can register by calling the March of Dimes office, 513-769-3588 or 1-800-525-9255.

60 CATS RESCUED

It might seem odd to throw a party to celebrate saving the lives of 60 cats. But that is what the residents of Strader Street in the East End will do today.

Neighbors, gardeners, rescuers and veterinarians will celebrate what they called saving the "Foreclosure Cat House" at 6:30 p.m. at 251 Strader St.

They will also celebrate the installation of a new water line for the adjacent East End Veterans Memorial Garden, a fund-raising project by nationally known artists creating multi-media portraits of the cats, and a new adoption Web site.

The cat story dates to May, when the owner of the house was evicted and walked away without telling anyone about the cats and kittens trapped inside. Some were sick or injured, and had no food or water.

Just before the bank that had taken ownership cleared out the house, several rescue groups organized a community rescue effort. A Web site, www.ForeclosureCats.org, was created to solicit donations, volunteers and to accept foster and adopter applications.

"Some of the cats are running out of time with their current foster families," said Gail Silver of Silver Bells Rescue. "So we

desperately need more foster families as well as adopters."

Joe Corcoran, a resident of Strader Street, said it's a neighborhood where people walk a lot, and know each other and what is happening on the street.

He said they are excited about saving the cats and the house.

"With all that and the garden thriving and beautiful, we have a lot to celebrate," Corcoran said.

Restoration of the house continues.

Information: 513-475-0002.

NEW VFW COMMANDER

Wayne Waligorski, a Vietnam veteran, has been elected commander of the 4th District Ohio Veterans of Foreign Wars, which covers Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland and Warren counties.

There are 41 VFW posts in the 4th District with 7,000 members.

Waligorski, of Oakley, is an employee of the Transportation Security Administration at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

He served from 1967-68 as a telecommunications specialist with the 1972nd Communications Squadron, U.S. Air Force at Danang. Waligorski is married with two daughters.

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