

## **TEAM TSF rocks ARIZONA!!!**

Team TSF hit the road this winter and participated in the 2012 P.F. Chang's Rock 'n' Roll Arizona Marathon & 1/2 on January 15 and they ROCKED it! There were twelve participants on the AZ team from AZ, NJ, NC and WA all coming together to raise awareness about TS and to take our mission across the country.

Among the team members was Janna Fornia from Seattle, WA whose 7 year old daughter has TS. Janna was very excited to meet the other moms involved in TSF and to share her story. "My daughter was diagnosed with Turner Syndrome seven years ago. In that time I had never met another family touched by TS and I felt very alone. So last fall I decided to join Team TSF and run the Arizona Rock and Roll half marathon in the hopes of finally meeting other families and girls affected by TS. A few months later I flew down to Arizona for the race and to meet the team. It was a healing experience to finally talk to someone who knew what our family was going through. We talked about the joys and challenges of Turner Syndrome and I felt an immediate connection with the other moms. I grew emotional and empowered and knew I was running a race for something bigger than myself."

Donna Villavicencio, now a NJ resident, lived in Arizona for 12 years and recruited a team of her friends to form Team Ava in honor of her 3-year old daughter. They jumped at the opportunity to help out. Team Ava included Suzanne Chilson, John and Ashley Pisauro, Cyd Pernoni, and Brian Perkinson. One of Donna's best moments from the weekend was not only getting to walk and talk with four of her dearest friends for 13.1 miles but when she met a woman in the start corral who has TS. "It was amazing that in a crowd of almost 40,000 people that Kelli was right behind our team. Kelli, who wasn't diagnosed until she was 17. saw our shirts and came over to say hi. She thought it was great that we were out there raising awareness about TS and she plans on joining Team TSF at the 2013 Arizona event," said Villavicencio.

Gina and Matt Maclean, parents to 5 year old Tatum, reside in AZ and also completed the 1/2 marathon. Gina, who had planned to walk the event, was inspired and encouraged by cousin, Veronica Mannett and ran the whole thing. Way to go Gina! Team Tator Tot also included Merybeth Taft.

And last but certainly not least is two time Team TSF Marathon runner, Mary Shepherd, grandma to Mary Milan, who traveled all the way from NC with her husband, Junior, to be a part of this year's AZ team. Mary also participated in the marathon in our kick off event in Long Branch NJ in 2010.

"It is inspiring to be involved with TSF because they are getting the word out! From Seattle to New Jersey families are getting involved and becoming a community. Participating in a charity for races as big as Rock and Roll reaches thousands of people and opens the discussion of Turner Syndrome. By raising this kind of awareness we are supporting our girls and their needs.", concluded Janna.

In addition to raising awareness, TEAM TSF raised over \$6,500 at this event. TEAM TSF is now off to St Petersburg FL to participate in the St Pete Rock 'n' Roll 1/2 Marathon on February 12. GO TEAM TSF!!!!

If you are interested in being a part of TEAM TSF, please send an email to [coach@teamtsf.org](mailto:coach@teamtsf.org).

## **Donate**

Turner Syndrome Foundation, Inc., PO Box 726, Holmdel, NJ 07733

