LADYBUG FOUNDATION

The Ladybug Foundation is dedicated to our beautiful daughter Mikayla Mullins.

The Ladybug Foundation is a charity focussed on supporting families dealing with Neurofibromatosis. Our personal journey with NF has given us a good understanding of what a roller coaster ride NF really is.

This Foundation is dedicated to making a real difference for not just the NF community but the wider community of New Zealand as *awareness is the key to finding a cure* so please join us as we head on this journey of awareness.....

We may have NF but NF doesn't have us!!!

2015 Awareness walk for NF

Saturday 23 May 2015

9.30am (10am start)

The Warehouse to the Whakatane Heads

Approx. 3km

Entry Fee: Gold Coin Donation

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MAY IS NF AWARENESS MONTH

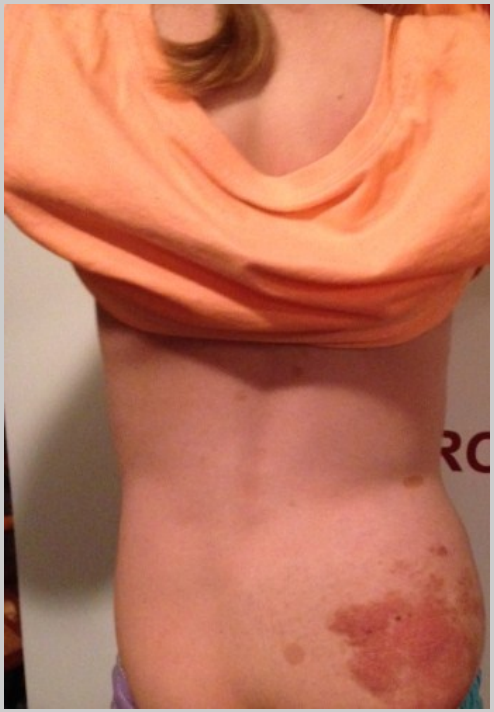
LADYBUG FOUNDATION

LOVE ME
LOVE MY SPOTS

RAISING AWARENESS FOR
NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

About Neurofibromatosis

Neurofibromatosis, or NF, is an under-recognised genetic disorder that can cause tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body.



Above photo showing a large Plexiform Neurofibroma and mild scoliosis

NF occurs in one in 3,000 people and affects millions worldwide

NF can lead to blindness, bone abnormalities, cancer, deafness, disfigurement, learning disabilities and disabling pain

NF affects all populations regardless of ethnicity or gender

Roughly half of all cases arise in families with no history of the disorder

NF is more prevalent than cystic fibrosis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and Huntington's disease combined.

NF has three distinct forms, NF1, NF2 and schwannomatosis

NF research is shredding new light on several forms of cancer, brain tumors, bone abnormalities and learning disabilities, ultimately benefiting the broader community in addition to those with NF.

A clinic diagnosis of NF1 is made based on a medical evaluation finding any TWO of the following:

* **Six of more café-au-lait spots that are 5mm or larger in pre-pubertal individuals or 15mm or larger in post-pubertal individuals.**
* **Two or more neurofibromas of any type of one or more plexiform neurofibromas.**
* **Freckling in the underarm or groin areas.**
* **Optic glioma (tumor of the optic pathway)**
* **Two or more Lisch nodules (benign coloured spots in the eye)**
* **A distinctive bony lesion: dyspasia (abnormal growth) of the sphenoid bone behind the eye, or dysplasia of long bones, often in the lower leg**
* **Having a close relative (parent, sibling or child) with NF1.**