

## Spotlight

# Featured Fundraiser Hamm Fam 4 Gran



The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation is delighted to recognize team Hamm Fam 4 Gran for demonstrating extraordinary fundraising efforts for the MMRF Team for Cures 5K Walk/Run Program. The MMRF hopes that this spotlight feature will motivate and assist other participants with new fundraising methods so one day we can reach our ultimate goal, finding a cure.

Team Hamm Fam 4 Gran is captained by Donna Horner. About four years ago, her mother, Shirley Hamm, fell and tore her right rotator cuff. As they tried to get it repaired, a mass was found in her upper right arm. She had no signs or symptoms that anything was wrong, but the Hamm family says that God was watching over Shirley because tearing that cuff on that exact arm led to the discovery of her multiple myeloma. Due to the accident, Shirley was diagnosed at an early stage. She has been through multiple combinations of treatments through the care of Dr. Levy at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. Because of the research of MMRF, and the drugs that they have discovered within the last few years, Shirley continues to lead a full life at the age of 82, keeping the multiple myeloma at bay. Shirley is an amazing mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother, constantly helping any and all of her 41 family members

Donna got involved with the MMRF soon after her mother's diagnosis, keeping up with all articles written and recent drug discoveries. She was excited to hear that the MMRF was bringing the 5K Walk/Run to Dallas. She signed up and decided to recruit a team. They named the team Hamm Fam 4 Gran, created matching t-shirts, and started the process of raising money.

Donna wrote to all of her family members to see who was willing to join her to walk for her mom. They started with posting pictures of Shirley on Facebook along with information about the race. These posts not only informed people of the race but also encouraged people to support the cause of raising money for research by donating or by joining them on race day. Donna then wrote a fundraiser letter to all of her friends via email, and attached my link for donating. She forwarded the letter to all her family members, and asked them to personalize it, and send to all their friends with their own link. That is how they raised most of their money. Several family members were able to raise quite a bit of money by also seeking donations from businesses that they work with. Each month, and then several times in the week leading up to the event, they asked again on Facebook and Instagram for donations. "It is difficult for some people to ask for money, but I am hoping that each year, family members will get more and more active seeking out donations" says Donna. "People are generous, and very willing to give to great cause – you've just got to ask!" Team Hamm Fam 4 Gran had a great turnout this first year and they had such a good time at the race that they returned this year with an even larger group.

“People are generous, and very willing to give to great cause – you’ve just got to ask!”

-Donna Horner