



An open letter to all the people and parents whose loved ones have just been diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, ALS or a related life threatening disease, this is for you.

My name is Brittany, and my 6-year-old son, Chayce, was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy in April 2016. Talk about a huge blow to the gut. After reading up on Duchenne muscular dystrophy, I was so scared. I did not want this for my funny, sarcastic, smart, fun-loving little boy. I was angry at the world because of his diagnosis.

After allowing myself time to process the news, I knew there was nothing I could do to take away this life-threatening illness from Chayce, but I had to do something, anything, that could possibly help. That's why I registered for my local MDA Muscle Walk and created the team "Race for Chayce." We raised awareness and almost \$5,000 by rallying our friends and family who asked "what can we do to help?" We walked for awareness. We walked for a cure. We walked for life.

I know after hearing your loved one's diagnosis, your life has been changed forever. It's a very scary, intimidating and difficult thing to go through. But what I ask is that once you take time to process, please turn the negative into something positive and join us at an MDA Muscle Walk event. Fight for strength, fight for your loved one and fight for a cure!

Together, we will be able to raise money to fund urgently needed research, care and support to help improve quality of life and possibly find a cure for our loved ones and those who will be diagnosed in the future.

I am so sorry if you are reading this because that means a neuromuscular disease diagnosis just came into your life, but I promise you, we can stand together; families, friends, local communities, at our local Muscle Walk, and we can help transform our hope into real answers.

Please consider registering for a Muscle Walk in your hometown. I know MDA, our loved ones — like my son Chayce — and you and I need all the support we can get.

Thank You,

Brittany, mother of Chayce



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