

## Melissa's Story



In September of 2000, at the age of 16, Melissa (Kindlon) Sanders was diagnosed with the neurological disorders of Chiari malformation (CM) and Syringomyelia (SM). After being blind sided in her car by a drunk driver, Melissa received emergency room medical attention and was released with no apparent health issues. Several weeks later she began to experience blinding headaches, nausea, dizziness, tingling and numbness in her hands and feet. After visits to several doctors, Melissa was referred to a Springfield Neurologist who diagnosed the CM and SM. Although congenital, the diseases can be brought on by blunt trauma to the head, such as what occurred in Melissa's car accident.



**Recovering From First Surgery**



**Decompression Incision**

After much research and consideration, Melissa had a decompression brain surgery at the Mayo Clinic in January 2001. Despite severe pain after surgery, Melissa's condition gradually improved. Several months later fluid started leaking from the back of her surgery incision. The fluid was cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and presented a serious problem that had to be addressed with more surgeries. As a result of the leaking spinal fluid, Melissa contracted Spinal Meningitis. According to her New York doctors, she was

## Melissa's Story Cont.

alive only because her mom had urged that she be put on antibiotics as a precaution.

Fast forward 4 years and Melissa has now had 4 more brain surgeries, a plate put in her head, a shunt to help the spinal fluid flow and numerous spinal taps. After all this the last surgeon to treat her said "Melissa is a failed Chiari patient". This meant that nothing surgically could be done to relieve her pain. Her only treatment option to help with the chronic pain and nausea was the prescribed use of narcotics such as Fentanyl, Oxycodone, Morphine and Zofran for nausea.



**Trying Something New  
(It didn't work!)**

The narcotics minimized the pain but left her feeling lethargic and not able to enjoy life. Proms, graduation and other milestones in her teenage life were all missed as a consequence of the disease she lives with daily.

Many Chiari patients like Melissa, appear normal on the outside not reflecting the severe pain and discomfort that they live with on a daily basis. There are also those that are confined to wheelchairs and hospital beds.

Melissa weaned herself off all narcotics so she could lead a normal life as a mother, wife and teacher. She lives in Chatham with her husband Scott and two year old son Caleb and they are expecting their second child in October. Melissa never complains and rarely shows the severe pain and discomfort she lives with daily. Today she treats her condition only through physical therapy and Advil. There is no cure for CM and SM and pain management is restricted primarily to the use of drugs.

Money is needed to raise awareness of the disease, fund research to help find a cure and make living with the disease more tolerable. We have no celebrity spokesperson, just concerned people like you to help us.

## Swing FORE THE Cure

**Friday,  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012  
1:00 Shotgun**



**AMERICAN SYRINGOMYELIA  
& CHIARI ALLIANCE PROJECT**

*Providing Research, Education, and Support since 1988*

## Swing FORE THE Cure



Help us raise funds and awareness for a disease you've probably never heard of that affects hundreds of thousands of people including someone you might know...



## Entry Form & Sponsorship Information

Please fill out the following and return with payment by June 1st, 2012

### Player 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Player 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Player 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Player 4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **We will only be participating in dinner.**  
Using the above lines please fill out names and contact information of all attending.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Yes, I will help sponsor the 2012 Swing Fore The Cure golf tournament as a :

**Tournament Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000  
(Can't thank you enough!)

**Special Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_ \$500  
(You made our day!)

**Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_ \$250  
(You are special!)

**Special Donor** \_\_\_\_\_ \$150  
(Thank you, thank you!)

**Donor** \_\_\_\_\_ \$100  
(You're the best!)

**Tee Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_ \$75  
(Thanks!)

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember no amount is too big OR too small!**

Sponsors will be commemorated on signage on the golf course at registration and the awards ceremony depending on the level of commitment. **Sponsors are key to our success.**

Please make non-refundable check payable to Swing Fore the Cure and mail to:

**Swing Fore the Cure**  
20 W Fairview Lane, Springfield, IL 62711  
217-585-0715

## Tournament Information

### \$80 per person

Includes golf, cart, dinner, 3 on course beverages, open bar following golf, tee gifts and prizes and use of practice range.

**12:00** - Registration  
Silent Auction Begins

**1:00** - Shotgun Start  
4 person scramble

**5:30 - 6:30** - Open Bar

**6:30** - Silent Auction Ends  
Dinner  
Awards Ceremony

### Dinner Only Option .....\$25/person

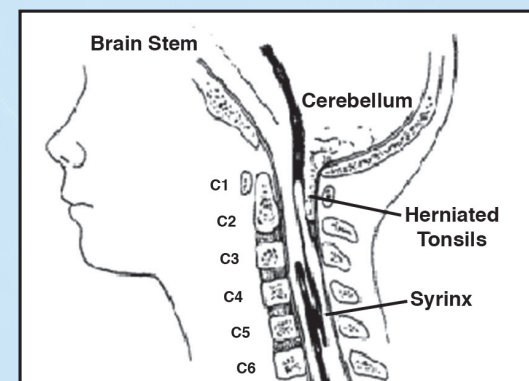
Includes open bar and buffet dinner in clubhouse.

*Rain Policy - The open bar, dinner and awards ceremony will occur at the regularly scheduled times. In the event of unplayable conditions all participants will receive a coupon valid for 18 holes with cart to be used at their discretion.*

100% of the net proceeds will be donated to ASAP. Your support will help ASAP improve the lives of persons affected by Chiari malformation (CM), Syringomyelia (SM) and related disorders while a cure is found. The non-profit organization was founded in 1988 and is the leading organization in the fight against CM and SM. Although much has been learned since 1988, little is still known of these diseases today. ASAP also provides people with CM/SM the support and direction needed when facing treatment decisions. More can be learned of ASAP by contacting them directly.

**American Syringomyelia & Chiari Alliance Project, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 1586, Longview, TX 75606-1586  
1-800-ASAP-282 • [www.asap.org](http://www.asap.org)

## What is Chiari Malformation and Syringomyelia?



**Chiari malformation (CM)** is a congenital condition in which the back compartment of the skull is formed too small and results in crowding of neurological tissues. The lower part of the cerebellum hangs down through the opening of the bottom of the skull and causes blockage of spinal fluid to the spinal canal. The crowding and blockage brings about neurological symptoms such as severe headaches, difficulty swallowing, dizziness, visual disturbances and coordination problems.

**Syringomyelia (SM)** is the build up of spinal fluid in the spinal canal, which is due to the blockage caused by CM. As the amount of spinal fluid increases, it creates a cavity in the spinal cord called a syrinx. This damages the spinal cord and can result in painful or disabling symptoms. Having Syringomyelia can cause numbness, tingling, pain or weakness in the arms and legs and can lead to paralysis. Patients may be subjected to multiple surgeries and there is no known cure.

CUT HERE AND REMIT WITH PAYMENT



*Swing*  
FORE THE  
*Cure*