

Volunteers taking on Gauntlet Games for Steph's Wishes

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TOGETHER: The HCPA team, with one member missing, are preparing to take on the Gauntlet Games

A TEAM of workers are fundraising for a charity after being inspired by its founder's story online.

Mud, water and other obstacles will be navigated at The Gauntlet Games by nine members of the Hertfordshire Care Providers Association (HCPA) in aid of Steph's Wishes.

The charity gives special memory days to terminally-ill children and young people after 21-year-old Stephanie Knight, from Braughing, set up her own bucket list before her death in 2013.

Inspired by the story, Lyndsey Woods made an effort to contact Stephanie's family and raise money for the charity.

Now, she and her colleagues are undertaking the Gauntlet Games, at Watton-at-Stone's Woodhall Park, for the second year running.

Mrs Woods said she is looking forward to the event, which is on Saturday, but does not expect her team to be setting any world records.

"We are all going to stick together, we've said we won't split up and it's not a timed race so the fitter ones can push us up the hill," she told the Mercury.

"They are all various ages and abilities and are all willing to be put through their paces and see if they can do it."

The team has set a target of £1,500 but, as it is their second year, may be some way short.

Given an option of a 5k or 10k course, competitors must navigate the course, along the River Beane and over various obstacles.

Currently, the group have raised around £250 but are still hoping for an increase in donations.

"We want to raise enough for a memory day but at the moment it's not looking that likely," said Mrs Woods.

"I think because we did it last year as well, not as many people are donating.

"I think it was the bucket list that was very inspiring and made me want to get involved.

"It was just something I was following on Facebook and on TV before Steph died."

Stephanie's mum, Cindy Knight, expressed her thanks to the HCPA team for making the effort.

"It was the first time, last year, that we experienced how generous people could be with their time and raising funds," she said.

"When people come back for a second year you are overwhelmed, it takes a lot of training for them to be able to get through it.

"I think they are doing it because they are inspired not just by Stephanie but by every young cancer sufferer in the world, and long may it continue."

To donate to the HCPA team's efforts, visit mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/hcpastephswishes

Source: <http://www.hertfordshiremercury.co.uk/group-throwing-gauntlet-charity/story-26303099-detail/story.html>