

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event organizers:

Carrie Rakich 905-323-5986

John Rakich 905-323-5840

Info@destinationchurch.online

Abbi's mom:

Katie Monaghan 905-328-6080

Gun-toting pastor organizes fundraiser to research a cure for rare illness

Local teen's story behind day of shooting

“As well as pastoring a church, I’m on the executive of the Decew Gun Club (<http://decewgunclub.com>), which I guess makes me a gun-totin’ pastor” said John Rakich. “When I asked, club members were very receptive. Peaceful gun owners enjoy introducing new shooters to the sport.”

NIAGARA - July 4, 2019 – Abbi Monaghan is 13 and lives in St Catharines, with her rare disease.

OPEN to ALL on July 13 the 4th Annual Shoot for Abbi to raise funds for Cystinosis research happens at Decew Gun Club, Cataract Rd, Fonthill.

There will be Raffles – prizes include a \$1,400 Traeger Pellet Grill and Smoker. There’ll also be at least one 50/50 draw.

Abbi's Road to a Cure (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/abbis-road-to-a-cure/?fbclid=IwAR38Lo7X9mCnvFWSwcUpCaAZtlubmIq2MQivRbCjmNMIUrcw8DJdMRohLw>)

- Why a shooting day to fundraise?

More Canadians shoot than play hockey. It’s one of a few sports in which everyone can compete together – children, physically challenged, women, and men. Charities hold all kinds of events. Why not a shooting day?

- How much does it cost to attend?

FREE to attend. Come wander around and see what’s going on. Buy lunch if you wish... participate in the raffles... there is no cost to get in.

Shoot for Abbi competition is \$20 to shoot a .22 long rifle at 25 yards.

To make it fair, everyone shoots at a blank page – a bingo card turned facing away from the shooter. It's possible for a first-time shooter to win.

The \$20 includes lunch (burger or hot dog, drink and bag of chips) and a raffle ticket for prizes being raffled all day. It's a great return for your \$20; maybe the most economical fun you'll have anyplace.

That's right – only 20 bucks for you to...

- a) Shoot a .22 long rifle safely and legally.**
- b) Punch holes in paper targets from 25 yards away.**
- c) Maybe win a shooting prize.**
- d) Maybe win a raffle prize.**
- e) Feel good that by sending a box of bullets downrange, you've helped pay for research towards curing a cruel disease everybody wishes nobody will ever have.**

- Who's hosting the Shoot for Abbi?

Decew Gun Club pays for food. Members loan their guns for the day.

ALL workers are volunteers – car parkers, ticket takers, organizers, administrators, range safety officers (one for every shooter), cooks, servers, setter uppers and tearer downers. NOBODY gets paid...

100% of the money raised goes to the Cystinosis Research Foundation

Research into curing this disease has passed the fantasy and wish stages. In April 2019 FDA approved clinical trials of stem cell and gene therapy

(<https://littlebravesambo.blogspot.com/2014/10/dr-cherqui-and-amazing-lysosome.html>) developed by Dr Stephanie Cherqui

(<https://medschool.ucsd.edu/som/pediatrics/research/labs/cherqui/Pages/default.aspx>).

More info is at Cystinosis Research Foundation (<https://www.cystinosisresearch.org/>)

- How much has been raised?

2016: \$6,000+ 2017: \$8,000+ 2018: \$11,000+ Total \$25,000+
2019 goal is \$15,000

- Why are we raising money for research into such a rare disease?
 - a) **Researching complicated diseases like Cystinosis often leads to advancements in other, more common diseases.**
 - b) **Have you seen the images and videos of Abbi?** Be grateful you're not suffering the way she is. Every day that young lady proves she has larger and tougher spheres than most North American males.
- Will Abbi be there?

Abbi just had more surgery at Toronto Sick Children's Hospital. She might be able to attend her own shoot. Perhaps not.

BUT YOU CAN – AND you can use your influence into persuading your audience into attending.

What: Shoot for Abbi

When: 13 July 2019 10am - 4pm

Where: 3042 Cataract Road Fonthill, Ontario L0S 1E6

Why: Raise money for cystinosis research

How: Shoot guns and punch holes in paper

Who: Abbi's Road Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/AbbisRoad2006/>)

Can we count on you to contact sources for interviews and grant earned media, aka publicity, the week prior?

Can you attend and cover the event?

- END -