

7th Annual Breckenridge/MDA Muscle Team Bash

An Evening of Sports, Hope and Finding a Cure

When a newborn is welcomed into this world, parents hope their child will have a bright and hopeful future. Unfortunately, hours after Lilly Baggett was born, she was diagnosed with Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy, a genetic and most common form of MD in which infants have severe muscle weakness obstructing breathing and swallowing and causing brain development problems. Shortly after Lilly's diagnosis, Samantha Baggett, Lilly's mother, was also diagnosed with mild case of Myotonic Dystrophy. Studies have found if a parent carries the gene, the child will have a 50 percent chance of also having the disease.

However, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is working to find a cure. This year, researchers have found a critical key to blocking the cause of Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy by fooling defective genetic material in a discovery that could have major implications for finding a treatment for the disease. Scientists are hopeful since they now understand how the disease operates, which will help create medicines that will combat the disorder.

With the help of doctors and the MDA, Lilly's motor skills have signif-

icantly increased with more leg movement and eye contact. This is just one of the many examples of how close the MDA is to finding a cure for more than 40 different neuromuscular diseases based on the research they fund.

To fund more research studies like Lilly's, the MDA needs your support now more than ever. For the past six years, the Breckenridge/MDA Muscle Team Bash has raised over \$825,000 for resources and research for those affected with MD. This event was originally launched in 2003 by the late St. Louis Hotel Developer, Donald Breckenridge, Sr., who was actively involved with MDA for over 30 years. The Breckenridge Family, along with Donald Breckenridge, Jr., an MDA National Vice President, is committed to continuing the legacy and raising the bar for another successful year.

"We work, fight, hope and pray for a cure and good news is shortly down the road," said Don Breckenridge, Jr. "The entire community's support is needed to make this event a huge success for MDA and its families. What better way to do that than to enjoy a great evening of food, cocktails and entertainment!"

As the event has continued to grow in attendees and dollars raised for MDA, the Muscle Team Bash will be hosted at Chaifetz Arena on the St. Louis University Campus on Thursday, February 11, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm. Also, the event will honor and recognize Mike Bush, KSDK News Anchor and MDA Telethon Host, for his years of generosity to the MDA and the St. Louis community.

Set up as a lavish cocktail party, the Muscle Team Bash is a unique event bringing business and com-



munity leaders together with local and national sports celebrities. While mingling throughout the night, attendees may participate in the live and silent auctions and enjoy entertainment such as a live band, an Amini's Game Room and appearances by Fred Bird, SLU Billiken and the St. Louis Rams Cheerleaders.

The money raised from the Breckenridge/MDA Muscle Team Bash will stay in St. Louis to help hundreds of families. In addition to the vital research, funds will support summer camp at Babler State Park; assist with the purchase of wheelchairs, braces and other equipment; and support comprehensive clinics at Washington University and St. Louis Children's Hospital, where patients can receive their diagnostic evaluation, follow-up treatment and rehabilitative care at no cost to them.

"We work, fight, hope and pray for a cure and good news is shortly down the road." ~ Don Breckenridge, Jr.

For information on purchasing tickets or becoming a corporate sponsor of the Breckenridge/MDA Muscle Team Bash, please contact Tonia Hails, MDA Regional Director at (314)961-1152 or <https://secure.mdausa.org/stlouismuscleteam>.

