

## **“We felt loved and that helped us to stay strong”**

*Baby Gordie’s parents share their hopes for the future of childhood brain cancer*

**Calgary, AB, May 30, 2016** – The world first heard of Baby Gordie this past spring, when his parents, Joshua and Jerfield, shared their family’s tragic story: Baby Gordie, just one month old, had a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer – one that sadly took his very short life on March 18, 2016.

It was just before Gordie’s two-week check-up when he started to get fussy and feeding him became difficult. That’s also when Jerfield says she noticed her baby’s head seemed larger than normal. On March 1, Jerfield took Gordie in for his appointment and made a point to ask the doctor about his head size. “That’s when our doctor asked for a second physician to come in and take a look at Gordie, and together they recommended I take him to the hospital for an ultrasound,” she recalls. With Joshua at work, Jerfield called him to tell him what happened at the appointment and the urgent need to get their newborn to the ER. Leaving his job, Joshua and Jerfield rushed to their local Calgary hospital where ultrasound results showed a mass on Gordie’s brain and a CT scan confirmed what it was: a brain tumour was taking up two-thirds of Gordie’s brain’s left hemisphere. “From that time on, everything happened so fast that I couldn’t believe it was real,” says Joshua.

For only a short time, Gordie survived with his parents, brother Dylan, and many loved ones by his side. Jerfield says it was this incredible support – and the help she found through Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada – that made things possible for the family to stay strong in the face of such overwhelming circumstances. Finding the Foundation online and connecting with one of their staff members, Jerfield and Joshua learned about the programs and services available, and the Calgary Brain Tumour Walk.

Despite the family’s grieving, joining the Brain Tumour Walk has helped turn the negative into positive, explains Joshua, as the event proceeds fund brain tumour research and specialized resources for patients. “It gives us a sense of direction knowing that we are not alone in this battle,” he also says of the community and cause behind the fundraiser. And while it’s especially painful for her family right now, Jerfield adds that their greatest hope is one day, when a child or adult is diagnosed with brain cancer, no one else has to face their same difficult journey. “I want to know that doctors can say, ‘Don’t worry, we got this. There are options, there is a cure. You will be treated and you will be healed.’”

The 2016 Calgary Brain Tumour Walk takes place on Saturday, June 4 at Edworthy Park. Opening Ceremonies and Brain Tumour Survivor Recognition begin at 9:45am. Online registration is encouraged; there is no entry fee to participate. Brain Tumour Walks are family-friendly and non-competitive, and feature 2.5km and 5km routes for all abilities.

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# Media Release, cont'd

## About the Brain Tumour Walks

Every day in Canada, 27 people are diagnosed with a brain tumour. That's 10,000 new diagnoses each year. By signing up and fundraising as part of a Brain Tumour Walk, patients, survivors, family and friends join the nationwide movement to end brain tumours. Their efforts support Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's specialized resources that empower patients to be their own best health care advocates and fund the ground-breaking research that will find a cure for the disease. For more than two decades, Brain Tumour Walks (formerly Spring Sprints) have been the community event to bring together thousands of Canadians in tribute to and in memory of people affected by a brain tumour. **For more information about the 20+ Brain Tumour Walks taking place across Canada in 2016, visit [www.BrainTumourWalk.ca](http://www.BrainTumourWalk.ca).**

## About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity that offers information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it cancerous, non-malignant or metastases. The organization also funds research across North America and, since 1982, has dedicated more than \$4 million to finding a cure for the disease and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. **Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website: [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.BrainTumour.ca).**

**To interview Jerfield and Joshua, or for further information about the Calgary Brain Tumour Walk, please contact:**

Katrina Fortner, Alphabet Soup Communications  
519.902.8209 | [katrina@alphabetsoupcommunications.com](mailto:katrina@alphabetsoupcommunications.com)

