

Thrive

Insights and inspirations



In Dallas, Lily Grace's parents, Kathy and Steve Stigall, along with Lily's three siblings did a family run with Lily in a stroller.

Race for Lily Grace

Virtual run/walk raises money for near-drowning survivor

By Donna Hein

Bonnie Hahn's 5k in her Marble Falls, Texas, neighborhood on Oct. 3 only included a few people. But at the same time, she knew that more than 850 people in 22 states across the country were walking or running, while social distancing, in the virtual Race for Lily Grace.

They were raising funds to help with medical expenses for Lily, Hahn's 4-year-old granddaughter, who survived a drowning accident on Dec. 2, 2017.

Lily was just 15 months when she nearly drowned. A severe anoxic brain injury has left her unable to speak or walk. While therapies are helping on her road to recovery, several are not covered by insurance. The goal was to raise \$50,000 to help defray medical expenses for one year. **(Continued on page 5)**

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More than \$121,000 was raised.

Hahn led a Thrivent Action Team, one of 16 across the U.S. She rallied family and friends to join her team or lead a team in their communities. "We had a group in Colorado that was 20-people strong organized by my sister-in-law," Hahn says.

In Dallas, Lily's parents, Kathy and Steve Stigall, along with Lily's three siblings, did a family run with Lily in a stroller. Elsewhere in Dallas, a friend ran a half-marathon. Friends in Nebraska—a family of six—set up a relay and competed against each other to raise funds.

"Logically, an event like this shouldn't work during a pandemic," Hahn says. "But it just took off, and it feels like God has blessed it in a big way."

Participants received a T-shirt and a bracelet that reads Pray for Lily. The packets also included water safety information and a link to a water safety quiz (colinshope.org/quiz), provided by Colin's Hope, a nonprofit in Austin, Texas, dedicated to children's water safety.

"Until we lost Colin, I didn't know about how many young children accidentally drown," says Dale Wolter, Thrivent client and grandpa to Colin, who drowned in 2008 at age 4. "When you learn what can happen and what to look for, it makes such a difference."

Lily's mom, Kathy, is amazed at the race results.

"It's really humbling and a blessing to be a part of this race, to see people's generosity even in a pandemic," she says. "The Lord has reminded us that he will take care of us."

5 ways to celebrate the Christmas season virtually

How to connect with family and friends using technology

By Rebecca Lubecki

If you're celebrating the Christmas season virtually this year, there are plenty of ways to keep your traditions going.

1. Host a virtual gathering

With fewer parties to attend in person, see which ones you and your friends could throw virtually instead. Coordinate ahead of time to make sure no one has to miss out because of technology issues.



2. Prepare slideshows to share

Ask several guests to prepare a photo slideshow beforehand and give them a chance to share. That way, when others ask your niece how wedding planning is going or how your cousin's newborn is doing, everyone can share stories and see for themselves.

3. Start a photo chain

Email your family members with photos of Christmas gatherings from past years and encourage everyone to respond with their own. It's a great way to share some laughs, remember those who may have passed away since, or show younger or new members to the family some of its history.



4. Share family recipes

Part of the Christmas spirit includes sharing everyone's favorite seasonal treats and dishes. Have several family members make a favorite family recipe and pick a day to enjoy it together over video chat or email.

5. Make a difference

There's no better way to get into the giving spirit than supporting a great cause. Organize a virtual Thrivent Action Team with family or friends, bond and make projects together over video calls, like making blankets for the homeless.