

# SAMPLE LETTER

February 1, 2009

Mark and Sue Smith  
1819 Alligator St.  
Alligator, CA 01010



Jaxon 4 years old

Dear Uncle Mark and Auntie Sue,

This March I will be participating in the 5th Annual NF run/walk for Neurofibromatosis. The event will be held at the Lagoon Valley Park in Vacaville, CA. This year the NF, Inc. California's goal is to raise \$25,000.00. I would like to help them reach their goal.

At first glance, Neurofibromatosis is a difficult word – it is hard to pronounce and most people have never heard of it. For those affected by “NF,” Neurofibromatosis becomes a part of their daily vocabulary. It is a real disease in need of more awareness, funding, and research.

Meet Jaxon. He is an energetic, enthusiastic four year old who loves to sing and talk to everyone he sees. He was diagnosed with NF when he was three. Jaxon looks forward to his doctors' appointments because he has a captive audience to entertain. All though he is only four, he knows the word Neurofibromatosis. In fact, last month he amazed his mother (and a store full of strangers) by lifting his shirt and announcing “Look! See my spots. It's my Neurofibromatosis.” (Café au lait spots and auxiliary freckling are a part of the diagnostic criteria, so Jaxon is used to having adults ask to see his belly.) Jaxon likes to talk about going to the doctor and having his MRI. Bystanders are astonished; no one would expect that this vibrant child has a need for bi-monthly MRI's. People expect a child with a brain tumor to look or act differently - to be sickly or unsociable. Thanks to proper medical care, Jaxon's tumor was found before it did permanent damage. Thanks to medical research, Jaxon has been receiving a chemotherapy drug to stop it from growing. And thanks to NF, Inc. California, his family is getting the support they need.

There are many stories like Jaxon's that will have a happy ending if the families are provided the right resources. Your donations are very appreciated, and they do make a difference. NF, Inc. California wants to help keep the hope alive for so many families. In addition to this walk, this year's projects include: distributing educational packets for families and physicians, mailing newsletters, sending email blasts, making phone calls, hosting family events, symposiums and educational meetings.

Will you join me in helping NF, Inc. California reach their goal? My personal goal this year is to raise \$1,000.00. If you would like to join us in walking, additional information is available on the website [www.nfcalifornia.org](http://www.nfcalifornia.org), or you can call me and I can get you the additional information. It's going to be a great family day. Join us and we can all walk for NF together.

Sincerely,

Where we can all ~ move forward with hope ~