

News...

from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 25, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit 630-585-1308

Kifowit Honors Inspirational Youth, Kyle Knoernschild

AURORA, Ill. – Gaining weight to some individuals can seem like a negative occurrence, but not to Kyle Knoernschild, who suffers from cerebral palsy, which can inhibit growth. He was recently presented with a certificate from State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, for achieving 100 times his birth weight.

"Gaining weight is a struggle for many children who were born premature with special needs, and I believe Kyle is an inspiration to us all for making his weight goal of 100 times his birth weight," Kifowit said. "He was given less than a 2 percent survival rate at birth and has accomplished what others thought he would never do. This certificate is the least I can do to acknowledge a phenomenal individual."

Kifowit honored Kyle at his home with his family and friends. He was born 24 weeks premature and weighed only 1 pound, 1 ounce. Kyle was so small at birth that his arm was smaller than his father's wedding ring. At that time, he was given a 2 percent chance of survival and doctors had warned that his growth would be stunted, he would not be able to walk or talk and his long term prognosis was grim. However, through the work of early intervention specialists and doctors helping Kyle, who was diagnosed with Ataxic Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, and Autism, is thriving. Kyle is now a vibrant and energetic 11 year old that not only walks and speaks, but is part of his school's Special Olympics track and field team, most recently receiving his first medal. Kyle's dreams include running in the New York Marathon and attending a university to become a speech therapist and to help kids like him to achieve what he has been able to accomplish.

"No label, diagnosis or prediction has ever prevented Kyle from doing what he wanted in life," said Kyle's parents Karl and Katra Knoernschild. "While his future goals may seem unreachable to some, we believe, as Kyle has always shown us, that if it's in his heart to do something, he will find a way. Through all of his struggles in life, countless medical procedures, challenges and limitations, Kyle remains happy and positive about his life and future, and is an inspiration to everyone in his life."

The Knoernschilds are forever grateful to the Ronald McDonald House Charities who provided space for them while Kyle was in the NICU for over 6 months.

See attached photo

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State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit presents a certificate to Kyle Knoernschild, who has cerebral palsy, for his achievement of gaining 100 times his birth weight of 1 pound, 1 ounce when he was born 24 weeks pre-mature.

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