## In Memory of Hunter Nelson - November 5, 1999 to May 29, 2005



"My parents said I was their Greatest Teacher! I taught them unconditional love, faith in God, hope, strength, courage, humility, patience and compassion. Don't forget me! I also hope that you will never forget less fortunate children who will always need your support. Always help those who can't help themselves! I will always have a Dream for a Cure, I hope you do too! God Bless You All!"







Hunter's Dream for a Cure is a non-profit organization established in 2000 by Robb & Wendy Nelson in the name of their son, Hunter, who was diagnosed with Sturge-Weber Syndrome (SWS) when he was seven months old. On May 29th, 2005 we unexpectedly lost Hunter to a massive seizure. Needless to say this has been a monumental & devastating loss. In Hunter's memory our foundation has made a renewed commitment to fight this disease and try to make sure that other families do not have to go through the ultimate tragedy of losing a child! SWS is a rare brain disease with no cure or definitive prognosis for those afflicted with it. Symptoms associated with SWS include seizures, glaucoma, cognitive, motor and neurological deficits, eye and internal organ irregularities. Hunter's Dream raises money for children with SWS, other neurological diseases and programs for special needs children right here in Colorado. Through our fundraising events, the Dave Diaz-Infante Mark Schlereth Charity Golf Classic, the Celebrity



Hunt for a Cure and the Craig Morgan Denim & Diamonds Gala, we have raised more than \$900,000 since our inception. Our efforts were recognized in 2004 when we received the *Frances Owens Communities Helping Young Children Award* presented by the former First Lady of Colorado for demonstrating outstanding support for early childhood intervention and support programs in Colorado. In 2005 Robb & Wendy received the *Pathways Achievement Award* from the state of Colorado, honoring extraordinary achievements for people with disabilities.

Hunter's Dream for a Cure has presented The Kennedy Krieger Institute & Johns Hopkins Sturge-Weber Syndrome Center with checks to date totaling \$525,000. Our funding helped establish the Center, which was the first of its kind. As a result of our funding and Hunter's passing, the Center was renamed the **Hunter Nelson Sturge-Weber Center**. The Center takes a multi-disciplinary approach to evaluating and treating all medical issues associated with SWS. Long-term research goals of the Center include the development of clinical trials aimed at improved treatment for those affected by SWS and hopefully an eventual cure.



*Hunter's Dream For A Cure* has presented \$75,000 to Colorado's own **Developmental Pathways**. The Developmental Pathways' funded program assists children with special needs in the public school setting and provides training to teachers. **Inspiration Playground** has also received \$50,000 from

Garth Brooks and Hunter at the Teammates for Kids Convention.

Hunter's Dream For A Cure to build the first universally-accessible playground in Colorado. Inspiration Playground is an outdoor play environment that includes safe, state of the art structures that enables every child – able bodied and disabled – to play independently on the same equipment. Other Colorado beneficiaries including **Poudre Valley Children's Orthotic & Prosthetic Fund, Windsor Boardwalk Playground Project, Early Childhood Intervention, Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center, Wheelin' Sportsman, Outdoors Without Limits, Tony Semple Foundation, Union Colony Children's Music Academy, 24/7 Kids - Support for Families, Inc.,Rehabilitation and Visiting Nurse Association** and many more have received over \$250,000 from *Hunter's Dream for a Cure*.