

NEWS RELEASE – LOCAL BRANDON FAMILY HAS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Faith and Fern Harrison grew up in Brandon, Manitoba but have since moved to Alberta and B.C. Their parents Floyd and Helen Harrison are still a Brandon resident. Identical twin sisters, now Faith Wood and Fern Kwantes, have been re-united by a campaign to raise \$75,000 in 120 days, so Kwantes can receive her only hope of recovery from a rare debilitating disease called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy or RSD.

We would like support in raising the funds in time so that Kwantes can take part in a ground breaking medical procedure. If successful, Kwantes will go to Mexico and undergo a dangerous Ketamine coma trial that has already proved successful with other RSD patients.

So far, Wood's has pulled together all her resources as a successful entrepreneur in Calgary, Alberta and received unlimited support from local business and residents. Currently with a small team of entrepreneurs who are donating all time and services, Wood's has been able to raise \$29,000 towards the \$75,000 total.

We want to raise awareness of this disease; which if caught within two years has a high chance of being cured. Unfortunately Kwantes had to go through many years of painful treatments before she was diagnosed. This is a story that encompasses all of Canada; however we require your help raising the campaign's profile in your community.

Fern Kwantes, Faith Wood and Mr & Mrs Harrison are all available for interview. We have also produced an information video for distribution - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MC73fkKC2Mk>

Originally from Brandon, MB and now a B.C. resident, mother of three Fern Kwantes has been in chronic pain since 2003, suffering from a rare condition called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy or RSD. A progressive disease of the autonomic nervous system, RSD is characterized by constant and extremely intense pain. Kwantes was told by doctors last year that they had exhausted all known treatment to help her. Her only chance for recovery now is a Ketamine coma trial in Mexico.

Kwantes' identical twin sister Faith Wood has created Faith for Fern; an initiative aimed at getting her sister the help she so desperately needs.

With a definite goal of \$75,000 in mind, Wood has taken on the awe inspiring task of raising the massive amount of money in 120 days – and she needs the public's help. Wood said, "I think we can make this work, because of the power of people."

A light breeze across Kwantes' legs is enough to cause excruciating pain. The disease can result in complete loss of limb function; however she battles this symptom daily by spending painful hours working her limbs to keep as much muscle mass as possible – husband Theo, children Zach, 19, Elise, 16 and Harrison, 14 along with sister Wood are not giving up without a fight.

Kwantes has been through years of painful treatments, one of which resulted in a disk in her back being torn; requiring surgical replacement. She has decided to attempt the experimental treatment as a last resort. The trial is extremely dangerous, as the patient is put into a five day coma, to help 're-boot' the nervous system. Although risky, the prognosis for those who successfully complete the trial is very encouraging.

Wood is asking for people to contribute \$35, or whatever they can afford, to buy an hour of hope for Kwantes' recovery from a life sentence of pain, distress and sorrow.

To donate to Fern's cause, then please do so via the www.faithforfern.com website.

This is truly, Kwantes and her families' last chance at a normal life. What else can a family do now but ask.

To donate to the Faith for Fern cause, or for more information, please visit www.faithforfern.com

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Faith Wood at 403-461-3498 or faith@imind.ca , or Kirsty Young at kirsty.young@tinypr.ca or 403 703 0055.