



The Butterfly Challenge

Swim for a Cause

Each day, the children that the **Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund** serves try with great determination to ***get a little bit better and a little bit stronger***. This summer at the pool, join us in ***The Butterfly Challenge*** to help provide the best possible care for our children and their families.

What is The Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund?

Since 1976, The Dolan Fund has supported families with critically ill and disabled children who live in or are being treated in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware through a combination of financial assistance, respite programming, education and advocacy, support groups, and holiday giving.

Having a child diagnosed with a serious illness is an emotionally and financially overwhelming experience for any family, and we lighten the burdens and lift the spirits of the families who we serve. Our extensive network of healthcare providers across the region including at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Nemours Children's Hospital, Easterseals of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and area school districts, pediatric offices, and social service agencies refer families to us thereby verifying the legitimacy of financial assistance requests.

Peggy and Joe Dolan founded the Fund in 1976 in memory of their six-year-old daughter Kelly Anne, who passed away after a brave battle with a rare form of leukemia.

Why The Butterfly Challenge?

Kelly Anne loved butterflies — their individuality, beauty, and contrasting power and delicate nature are awe inspiring — and they are symbolic of the children and families the Fund supports. The butterfly is the Fund's logo, signifying the grace and dignity we aim to preserve for our children and families.

Inspired by Kelly Anne's story, we have recently received an increased number of requests from children and teens asking us for ways that they can get involved in volunteering or raising money for the Fund. Often, they know a friend or neighbor with an illness or disability and have seen the challenges presented by these diagnoses.

With summer and swimming season coming up, the idea for ***The Butterfly Challenge*** felt natural!

Ready to dive in? Here's how to take the plunge—

1. Read through these steps and decide that your summer youth swimming team wants to join **The Butterfly Challenge**.
2. Have your team designate a Captain or Captains. (This is a great job for a teen looking to fulfill some service hours for a project or for a college application). The Captain(s) will communicate with the Dolan Fund staff. The Captain(s) should contact Diana at drodgers@dolanfund.org to get their kickstart packet.
3. The Captain(s) will present **The Butterfly Challenge** to the team and take registrations by June 23, 2024. Any swimmer who wants to participate must pay the participation fee—simply their age at the beginning of the swim season, by online donation to Dolan Fund, and our staff will verify registrations with the Captain(s).
4. By June 26, 2024 the Captain(s) will time **Butterfly Challenge** participants in the 50m Butterfly swim and record their time.
5. The Captain(s) will time **Butterfly Challenge** participants a second time in the 50m Butterfly in the 3rd week of July, 2024, and record their time.
6. Because we are focusing on improvement over time, the swimmer who has had the greatest percentage improvement in his/her time in each age category (5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-16, 17-18) at each club will receive an award that the Fund will provide for your end-of-season awards ceremony. We will provide instructions on how to calculate percentage improvement.
7. The Dolan Fund will also award one Team and one Captain or set of Captains regionally that goes above and beyond in their involvement in the Fund's mission (for example completing one of our service projects) or through additional fundraising for our Financial Assistance program.



Other Notes

1. We will issue local press releases covering participation in **The Butterfly Challenge**. We are happy to repost your club's social media and will be congratulating winners. All photos and names of youth will be released only with the permission of their parents.
2. Any Captain(s) looking for service hours will be working with our Director of Development who is an experienced High School Teacher and College Counselor. We are happy to write letters of recommendation and sign National Honor Society papers.
3. This can be done on any scale. If you have 8 kids who want to try it this year, that's great. If 50 of you want to do it, that's great, too!