



*A World Record Attempt
and Film Documentary*

The Mississippi River Challenge for Rett Syndrome and Leukodystrophy

- Beginning May 10, 2003 -



www.mississippichallenge.org



The Mississippi River

The **Mississippi River Challenge for Rett Syndrome And Leukodystrophy** is an ultra-endurance race of the ENTIRE Mississippi River (2,348 miles) without any timeouts or breaks, all done to benefit those suffering from two life threatening diseases - Rett Syndrome and all forms of Leukodystrophy. In May of 2003, Clark Eid (Cheshire, CT) and Bob Bradford (Lapeer, MI) will attempt to paddle the mighty Mississippi River in World Record Time in a specially designed racing canoe. They'll launch their boat and their epic adventure in the still waters of a northern Minnesota lake and emerge ten states and weeks later in the Gulf of Mexico. In the days and nights covering 2,348 miles, the two endurance paddlers will race against time, fatigue, foul weather, and unforeseen hazards as they struggle to reach their goal. They are motivated by a love of paddling and the spirit of competition. But behind that, it's a deeply personal undertaking for both men. Clark's daughter has Rett syndrome and Bob's family has been affected by Adrenoleukodystrophy. They are taking on this unique challenge to raise awareness and research funds to combat these two life threatening diseases.

What Is Rett Syndrome? Rett Syndrome is a debilitating neurological disorder historically believed to affect 1 in 10,000 females within the first two years of life. A few cases of males with Rett Syndrome are known to exist. Girls with Rett Syndrome appear to develop normally until 6 to 18 months of age. They then enter a period of regression, losing speech, hand skills and motor skills they had acquired. They develop seizures, repetitive hand movements, severe breathing problems, muscle wasting, scoliosis, loss of ability to swallow, and digestive problems. Therapies to improve the quality of life remain elusive.

What is Leukodystrophy? Leukodystrophy refers to a group of genetic disorders that are characterized by the imperfect development or maintenance of the white matter (myelin sheath covering nerve fibers in the brain). The myelin sheath is an extremely complex fatty substance made of many components. Each of the leukodystrophies affects one of these components. The most common signs seen in most leukodystrophies include gradual changes in an infant or child who previously appeared well. Changes may appear in body tone, movements, gait, speech, ability to eat, vision, hearing, behavior, memory, or thought processes. The symptoms, which vary according to the specific type of leukodystrophy, may be difficult to recognize in the early stages of the disease. Treatment for most of the leukodystrophies is symptomatic and supportive.



To make a charitable gift by check or money order to support Rett Syndrome research via this fundraiser, please make your check payable to "Rett Syndrome Research Foundation " and mail directly to the RSRF at:

The Mississippi Challenge for Rett Syndrome and Leukodystrophy
c/o Rett Syndrome Research Foundation
4600 Devitt Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45246
Phone (513) 874-3020, Website: <http://www.rsrf.org>



You Are Not Alone

United Leukodystrophy Foundation

To make a charitable gift by check or money order to support Leukodystrophy Research via this fundraiser, please make payable to "United Leukodystrophy Foundation " and mail directly to the ULF directly at:

The Mississippi Challenge for Rett Syndrome and Leukodystrophy
c/o United Leukodystrophy Foundation
2304 Highland Drive
Sycamore, Illinois USA 60178
Phone: (800) 728-5483 , Website: <http://www.ulf.org>