

A little child shall lead them

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By Beth Kanagy, Times Staff Writer

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Bristol Miller, 3, a survivor of sudden cardiac arrest, was the American Heart Association Face of Heart honoree who led this year's Heart Walk at Cross Keys Village in New Oxford Saturday.

Bristol Miller is like any other little one, except she has a defibrillator implanted in her tummy. Bristol is the daughter of Leah and Josh Miller of Airville, York County. Bristol initially became unresponsive while in the care of a babysitter who fortunately knew CPR and continued chest compressions until emergency medical services arrived.

One of those first responders was Bristol's dad Josh, an emergency medical technician (EMT).

"We spent six weeks at Hershey," said Leah. "They (the doctors) never found a cause. That's why they placed the defibrillator in her tummy as a precaution. Just in case it ever happens again."

Bristol will always be under the care of a cardiologist, said Leah. Bristol will have her knowledgeable parents to keep an eye on her as well. While Josh is an EMT, Leah is a nurse practitioner in cardiology at WellSpan Health.

The entire family supports the American Heart Association, said Leah.

"The Heart Association is near and dear to all of us," she said. "If it weren't for CPR she (Bristol) wouldn't be with us right now."

Saturday morning teams and individuals from Adams County gathered for the walk. Before the walk even began, \$30,000 toward a \$50,000 goal had already been raised, according to Wade Markel of the Heart Association. The Gettysburg College team, comprised of members of the lacrosse, basketball, women's tennis and men's tennis teams, held the lead in team competition.

"This is the first time a non-health related team was in the lead," said Markel.

The Heart Walk is a yearly event for the American Heart Association, funds raised support the many programs and research conducted by the organization, including CPR training.