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**Pictured at the 2016 National Walk for Epilepsy®
(from left to right):**

Russell Ohm, Susan Ohm, Clarissa Kvaré, Mike Rood, Kim Rood, Jason Stockman (Upsher-Smith)

LOCAL PERHAM FAMILY ATTENDS 2016 NATIONAL WALK FOR EPILEPSY® IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Maple Grove, MN – April 19, 2016 – [Upsher-Smith Laboratories, Inc.](http://www.upsheer-smith.com) (Upsher-Smith), in partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN), today announced that Clarissa Kvaré of Perham, MN and her family were awarded a sponsorship to attend the Epilepsy Foundation's 10th Annual National Walk for Epilepsy® in Washington, D.C. on April 16, 2016.

Clarissa, a 10th-grader who loves animals, reading and taking long walks, has been coping with seizures for most of her life. Clarissa experienced her first tonic-clonic (grand mal) seizure at age five and was diagnosed with absence seizures at age nine. Today, her official diagnosis is generalized epilepsy.

Unfortunately, epilepsy has had a significant impact on Clarissa's life. As a 16-year-old, she is old enough to get a driver's license, but cannot take driver's education until her seizures are completely under control. Although Clarissa enjoys swimming, she cannot go in the water without supervision because of the possibility of a seizure. Most challenging of all, Clarissa cannot be left alone. As her mother, Kim Rood, explains it, "I don't have the freedom to just go. Somebody always has to be with her in case she has a seizure."

Winning sponsorship for the National Walk for Epilepsy® was a bright spot for the entire family. “It was such a surprise,” said Kim, “This was a great trip for Clarissa as she was able to get better acquainted with the epilepsy community. We want to thank Upsher-Smith for making the trip possible for us.”

About The Kvare/Rood Family

Epilepsy does not define Clarissa. She has dreams of being a veterinary technician or a marine biologist. At home, Clarissa can often be found listening to music while her Siamese cat, Charlie, perches on her neck like a parrot. Clarissa also enjoys spending time with her stepfather, Mike Rood, and her two older brothers, Matthew Sazama and Brandon Kvare. Talking with them about the challenges of having epilepsy helps her to cope.

Recently, Clarissa withdrew from the local public school and now attends high school online through Connections Academy. This change, combined with an adjustment in her medications, has helped Clarissa stay seizure-free since January. Her mother attributes the recent improvements to a reduction in stress because Clarissa was so nervous about having a seizure that it sometimes seemed to trigger a seizure. Connections Academy has been very understanding of Clarissa’s needs; for example, they provide her with physical (not digital) textbooks, since flickering lights are one of her seizure triggers.

Although the family has wanted to participate in epilepsy awareness events in the past, work and life schedules have previously made participation impossible. By walking for epilepsy, the family wanted to achieve greater compassion for people with epilepsy. They hope that if people are more understanding, those who have epilepsy will feel more accepted.

About The National Walk for Epilepsy®

The National Walk for Epilepsy® is a family-oriented, noncompetitive walk in our nation’s capital to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for seizures and to overcome the challenges created by epilepsy. The Walk has raised nearly 10 million dollars to support services for people living with epilepsy, awareness programs for proper seizure recognition and first aid, advocacy efforts to make sure health care options for people living with seizures remain strong, and research toward better treatment options and ultimately cures. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the National Walk for Epilepsy® in Washington, D.C. Each year, more than 5,000 people participate in the Walk in support of three million Americans who live with epilepsy every day, as well as their friends and loved ones. For more information on the National Walk for Epilepsy®, visit: www.walkforepilepsy.org.

About The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) leads the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures and save lives. One in 26 people will develop epilepsy in their lifetime. There are currently over 60,000 Minnesotans living with epilepsy. EFMN's vision is to create a world where people with seizures realize their full potential.

The Foundation's programs and services cover all of Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota. Those interested in any of its programs may contact Vicki Kopplin at 651-287-2314 or via email at info@efmn.org. To learn more, please visit: efmn.org.

About Upsher-Smith

Upsher-Smith Laboratories, Inc., founded in 1919, is a growing pharmaceutical company dedicated to its mission of delivering high-value, high-quality therapies and solutions which measurably improve individuals' lives. As a part of this mission, the company supports activities to help people live healthier and more productive lives. We strive to stand side-by-side with the patients we serve by volunteering in local and national events such as the Stroll for Epilepsy in Minnesota and the Epilepsy Foundation's annual National Walk for Epilepsy® in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.upsher-smith.com.

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