

# Parents to raise awareness about vaccinations at Halloween bash

By Nelia Raposo  
Special to The IFP

The Fox family of Georgetown is throwing a Halloween party at Nashville North to celebrate their deceased daughter and raise funds for research into vaccine safety.

The couple strongly believe their only daughter would still be alive, perhaps helping to plan her own sweet 16 party, had she not been vaccinated.

"She loved Halloween. She was a wise little woman. She spoke so well. She demanded having five or six hats so that she could put on a different one each time she woke up," David Fox, president of the Katlyn Fox Foundation, says.

The Katlyn Fox Foundation is a parent-founded charitable foundation focused on raising funds for independent scientific research into the safety and efficacy of children's vaccines. Its funds go directly to independent medical researchers as well as vaccine awareness groups, says the foundation's website.

Katlyn Marie Fox died two months before her second birthday. She was born on Oct. 31, 1999. One afternoon, months after getting the latest regularly scheduled vaccine, she did not wake up. Her official cause of death, according to parents Laurie Brafield, 52, and Fox, 51, was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

It's what medical professionals told them off the record at the time and hindsight that makes them think Katlyn's death is related to vaccine complications.

Every time she was vaccinated their daughter broke out into hives, she would cry in discomfort for days afterwards. After getting the Mumps, Measles, Rubella one, her parents say she had the worst reaction, manifested in a scabbing rash that lasted months.

"We are not anti-vaxers. Everyone makes their own choices. We wish we had known more before we made our choices," Fox, an elementary school teacher, says.

"The possible risk is much greater than what we are being told. We believe this is

information that parents should have access to," say Brafield, who has a university science degree and worked as a pharmaceutical sales representative.

"We want to share our story and get research done by folks that are just as well-trained as the folks working for the pharmaceutical industry," Fox said. "Those same people who are saying vaccines are beneficial will not be there if something goes wrong. We wish we had known more."

"Are there going to be people who read this and get upset? Probably, but we mean well and we want to help people," he says.

But he says the "Georgetown community has been supportive since day one. The response has been unbelievably supportive and open-minded. I was getting ready to have doors slammed in my face when we first opened up about this," Fox says.

This is the seventh-annual Katlyn Fox Foundation Halloween Dance and Silent Auction. Entertainment includes The Lion Mountain Trappers band and top 40s dance music disc jockey.

Photo by Nelia Raposo

Local businesses will be providing

a variety of food from savory pitas to pasta to baked goods. The food sponsors include: Pita Pit, Boston Pizza, Kelsey's, Traditional Taste Bakery, Tim Hortons and Da Chefs Padella in Norval.

The goal is to raise \$25,000. Funds raised will be donated to Dr. Chris Shaw, a University of British Columbia professor researching how adjuvants in vaccines affect the central nervous system. Examples of his work are available at [www.katlynfoxfoundation.com](http://www.katlynfoxfoundation.com)

Tickets for the Friday Oct. 30 event (\$25 in advance or \$30 at the door) can be purchased online at the foundation's website listed above, or in person at the following local businesses: Norval Pancake Factory, 71 Mountainview Rd. N, Georgetown, McMaster's Meat & Deli, 110 Main St. S, Georgetown, Integrative Wellness & Detox Centre, 523 Guelph St. Norval, Bauhound Haus, 276 Main St. E, Milton.



**Laurie Brafield and David Fox created the Katlyn Fox Foundation to honour the brief life of their baby girl who died in her sleep at one year and ten months. The portrait they are holding was shot when Katlyn was three months old.**

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