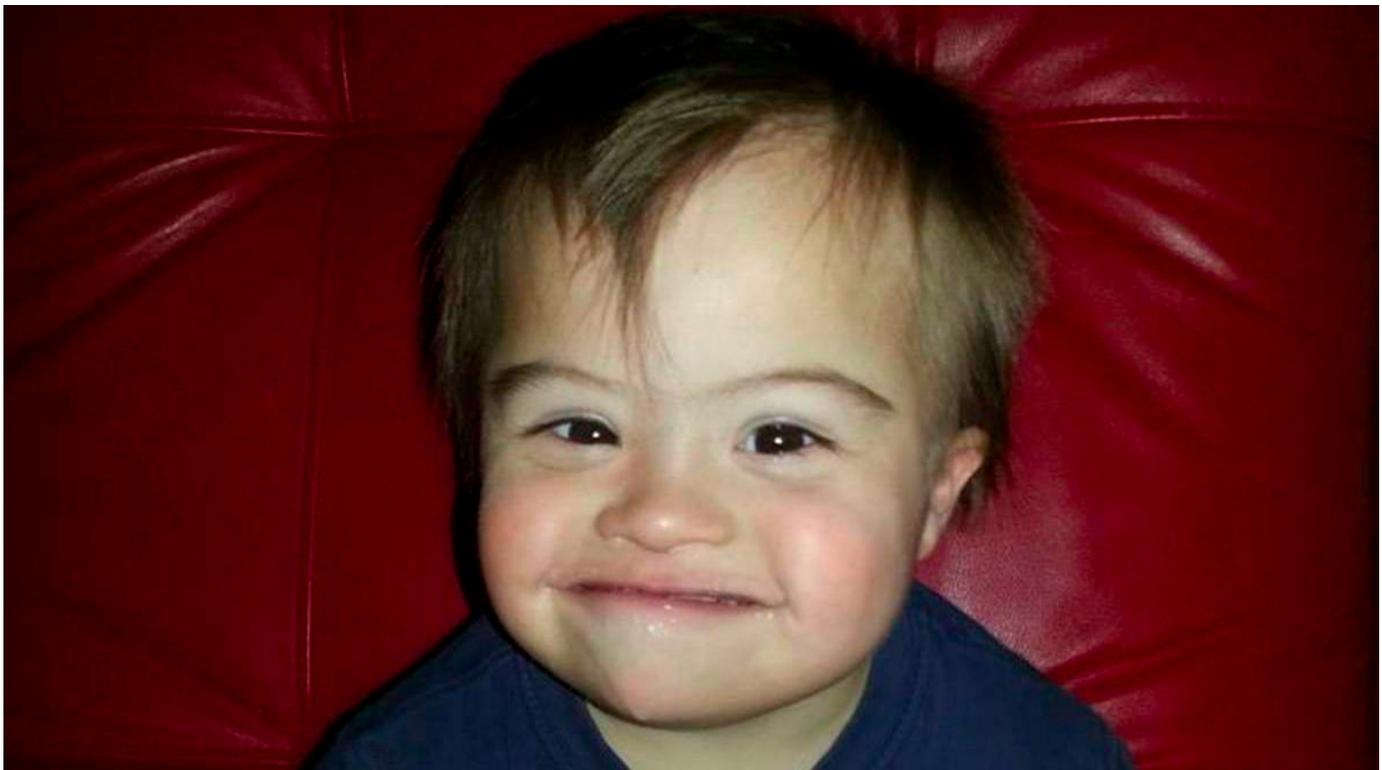


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# Foundation will keep meningococcal victim Ryder Manulat's memory alive

By Sam Rigney

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Ryder Manulat, who died from meningococcal in June.

WHEN Ryder Manulat died suddenly from meningococcal disease his family became determined his tragic death would have as much meaning as his promising life.

Ryder, who was 2 1/2 when he died in June, was diagnosed with Down syndrome and a congenital heart defect shortly after he was born.

Because of his ongoing health issues, his parents Merran and Ray were more than vigilant when it came to Ryder's health.

But the boy with the infectious smile didn't stand a chance when the rare B strain of meningococcal disease began attacking his body.

"Ryder's passing made us determined to start T21 Ryder's Foundation to ensure that he not only left his footprints on this world but to raise funds for families and carers with children up to five years of age with Down syndrome," Merran said.

"We want Ryder to be remembered for the beautiful, joyful and cheeky boy he was and not the terrible disease which took his life so quickly.

"He touched the lives of so many and has 6000 friends on his Facebook page, who continue to follow a little boy they had never met but fell in love with and mourned his loss as deeply as we did."

The foundation's first fundraiser is a memorial golf day and silent auction, with all the proceeds going to Down Syndrome Hunter Region.

The event will be held on December 15 at the Vintage at Rothbury. Auction items include a Titleist golf bag and clubs donated by Australian professional Adam Scott and a framed US Masters flag.

Merran said she appreciated the support of McDonald's restaurants at Rutherford, Greta and Singleton who had come on board as major sponsors for the golf day.

You can keep up to date with future events at [t21rydersfoundation.com](http://t21rydersfoundation.com).

For more information or to book contact Merran Manulat at [t21rydersfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:t21rydersfoundation@gmail.com)