

Need a break from shopping, wrapping, and decorating?

The Turner Syndrome Foundation is hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at Landmark II, East Rutherford, NJ.

Come join in this year's theme of a whimsical scheme entitled, "The Crackanut Mystery," including delicious food, goodie bags, and presents for the children. Author CJ West will even present a holiday mystery show! Guests will try to solve the mystery and save Princess Maddie from being turned into a frog forever!

"It's a lot of fun playing detective and I love the interactive aspect of it," says event planner, JoLynn Backes. "I have known CJ for a while, and read several of his posts on Facebook and saw pictures of the murder mystery events he has done, so thought it would be fun to have him write a show for the party. It was something different, and a way for people to interact in a new way."

To top it all off, the School of the Garden State Ballet will also be in attendance performing two dances as part of the mystery show.

Beyond an entertaining afternoon, this event serves as an opportunity to bring awareness to TS and to meet other members of the TS community.

"I hope that the event will bring people together and help to establish new friendships," said Backes. "I hope it will be a break from the stress of both the holiday season, and dealing with the effects of TS. Many of the actors in the show are women and girls with TS, so I hope it will show them and others that they can do anything and aren't limited by TS."

Doreen, an event volunteer for three years, agrees.

"We all have things that make us different but we all are so special and can be or do anything we want," says Doreen, whose daughter, Olivia, has TS and was immensely helped by TSF.

"TSF helps Olivia to be with girls like her and the never ending information is always so helpful," said Doreen, who hopes this event will help show how special Turner Syndrome is and raise funds for TSF.

Backes, a woman with TS herself, proves everyday that women with TS can do anything they put their mind to... and more. Diagnosed at age six, Backes joined a TS study and received growth hormone treatments for six years. And even with a bicuspid aortic valve, a horseshoe shaped kidney and having to wear hearing aids, Backes stays upbeat and ambitious.

"None of these have greatly impacted my life so far," says Backes who has a B.A. in Fiction Writing and a Masters of Education with a concentration in curriculum instruction and development.

“My personal ambitions are to continue working in the domestic violence and sexual assault field and educate others, as well as publish my first novel,” says Backes, who, on top of everything, hopes to have a baby with her husband through in vitro fertilization. “I wish it was easier [for women with TS] to have a baby,” admits Backes.

If you want to meet great people like Backes and Doreen, enjoy an entertaining afternoon, and work on your detective skills, all while helping to bring awareness to TS, you don't want to miss this event!

“It gets better every year,” says Doreen

Tickets are selling fast! (link)

<https://app.etapestry.com/cart/TurnerSyndromeFoundation/default/category.php?ref=4448.0.39101477>.

Also, for those who like the limelight, there are still a couple openings for actors in the show!!

There will be a raffle and vendor sale to benefit TSF. For more information, email JoLynn Backes at [gbackes@tsfusa.org](mailto:gbackes@tsfusa.org) or call 800-594-4585.