



Courtney Pett (right) with her mom, Rose Pett (center), and her grandma, Cathy Loffredo (left), waiting to start off the night.

DANCING FOR A CURE

By Courtney Pett

“I am Courtney Pett. I am a patient that it took 11 different doctors to diagnose; someone whose illness does not have a cure. I am someone that suffers from Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy. I am someone who is always doubted by those closest to me. But I am someone who has overcome. I am who I am, and I accept it; pain, or no pain. I am constantly assured that I am not alone.”

These words opened the evening for a CRPS fundraiser hosted by 2 dance studios, Avenue to Broadway and Dance for Joy, both located in New Jersey. I had hoped for a great success, and my dream came true. The night went so well because it contained many different levels of entertainment for all the supporters who attended. Dancers

from both studios performed a number of beautiful dances; one in particular, performed by two dancers, including my younger sister, danced to the song “Your Hands” by J. J. Heller. It was very

moving because it is correlated with pain and the struggles that I go through daily. Along with the entertainment, we had a great buffet, a lot of dancing, and a gift auction. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

The motivation to plan this wonderful night for CRPS first started with my employer, Corrine Ponzio. Once the idea was brought up, the ball starting rolling and family and friends were eager to help make it happen. With a strong turnout of 160 people, a total of \$3,550 was raised. Conducting this fundraiser was a great way to bring awareness, educate people and gain support for CRPS. I had originally hoped that this event would help everyone suffering from CRPS, but it helped me; it taught me that there are many people who love and support me and are hopeful that a cure will be found. It is my wish that others who suffer from this illness can know that they too are not alone. ■



Dance for Joy's Competition team performing a pointe number.