



THE 200 PERFECT JUMPS

For Parkinson's Disease

When it comes to helping his father, Gary, in his battle with Parkinson's disease, Kevin Burkart says, "The sky's the limit," and he means it literally. On Wednesday, June 16, 2010, Burkart will do 200 skydives in one day to raise money and awareness for Parkinson's disease. This unique fundraiser, which will benefit the Parkinson Association of Minnesota (PAM) and the National Parkinson Foundation (NPF), will take place at Skydive Twin Cities in Baldwin, Wisconsin, 20 miles east of Hudson, Wisconsin.

This is not a new idea for Burkart who previously executed 100 skydives in one day on June 4, 2008 and raised \$45,000 for Parkinson's disease. "I see this as an opportunity to do something I love for someone I love," says Burkart, 37, President of StepStoneGroup, a marketing/graphic design and promotions agency based in Savage, Minnesota. He has nearly 1,000 skydives in his skydiving career, and placed 7th at the US Nationals in 2006, competing with a four-way formation team called Fast Forward. The team won the Open Division of the Northern Plains Skydiving League that same year.

His father, Gary Burkart, of Shell Lake, Wisconsin, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in July 1999. Since his dad's diagnosis, both Kevin Burkart and his father have been very involved in efforts to raise money and awareness for PD. He has attended numerous conferences and served on the PAM board of directors for two years. He came up with the idea for The 100 Perfect Jumps in 2007, borrowing the idea from "Jump for the Cause", a skydiving event that raises money for breast cancer research.

For the event, Burkart will use two planes, six skydiving rigs, six parachute packers and a host of logistical volunteers that will assist with ground crew duties. He will exit each plane ride at approximately 2200 feet doing a jump every five minutes for 17-19 hours. The day will begin at 2 a.m. and Kevin feels confident he'll meet the 200 jumps goal between 8 and 9 p.m. As for the jumps, Burkart says, "They'd better be perfect!"

Help Kevin Burkart reach his \$60,000 goal. Individual donors can sponsor a jump in honor of, or in memory of, someone with Parkinson's disease for as little as \$100. Members of the public are invited to come to the drop zone at Skydive Twin Cities in Baldwin, WI to watch the jumps and take a jump themselves. The countdown to June 16, 2010 begins!

To learn more about sponsorship, donations or volunteer efforts, visit www.perfectjumps.com.

Start your own Community Fundraiser

For more information about how you can contribute to NPF through your own community fundraising event, please visit www.parkinson.org/fundraising.

Contact Kay Houghton at 305-243-8145 or e-mail khoughton@parkinson.org.