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Colleen Rieckhoff and Laurie Goldi want to raise public awareness about childhood cancer and the work being done by Leukemia, Research, Life Inc.

Rieckhoff and Goldi are very aware of childhood cancer. Rieckhoff's 4-year-old daughter Taylor is in remission since having a bone marrow transplant in May 1997, her only chance to beat acute myelocytic leukemia. Goldi's 3-year-old son Matthew

is nearing the end of 130 weeks of chemotherapy after being diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia in June 1997.

To reach that "whole mass of people" that doesn't know about the diseases and LRL, the two women have organized the first annual Trick or Trot, an evening of fitness and fun for the family, at Maybury State Park in Northville on Saturday, Oct. 30.

"Both of us ran and both of us trained for cancer society marathons," said Rieckhoff, a Plymouth Township resident. "But we couldn't think of anything like that that's done specifically for pediatric cancers."

"We attempted this once in the spring of last year, but it was too tough," added Goldi, a Farmington Hills resident. "Matthew was getting sick all the time and there was too much competition (with other races)."

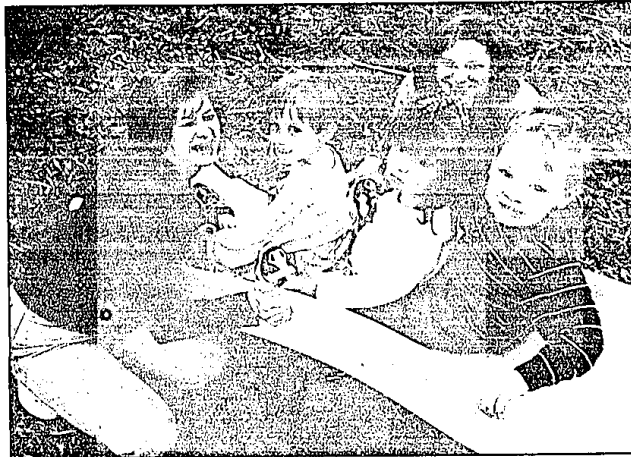
The women wanted to stage a race for children, but worried that runners would think only children could participate, so they have opted for a family affair.

The event will start with the Tot Trot, a half-mile loop, for children at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Trick or Trot 5K run/walk at 6 p.m.

Tot Trot participants will receive a finisher's ribbon and a bag of special treats, while awards will be presented in the 13 run/walk age groups, ranging from 14 and under to 70 plus for men and women.

After the run/walk, P.T.D. Theatre, which has been entertaining audiences for five years, will present a Halloween Party.

The run/walk costs \$15 by Oct. 1, \$16 by Oct. 22, \$18 by Oct. 2 and \$20 on race day, while the Tot Trot is \$5, \$6, \$8 and \$1 respectively. All fees include long-sleeved T-shirt and the party.



Fun time: Laurie Goldi (left) and Colleen Rieckhoff (right) take a break from promoting their Trick or Trot benefit to help their children - 4-year-old twins Ryan (second from left) and Taylor Rieckhoff and 3-year-old Matthew Goldi - on the slide in Rieckhoff's backyard.

LRL,* the two women are thrilled with the generosity of the automaker.

And plenty of businesses have stepped up - Q95.5 and WJR radio, Jacobson's, Johnson Con-

The event is being presented by Ford Motor Co., and the special guests are Lila Lazarus of WDIV-TV Channel 4 and Mark

Hayes of WXYZ-TV Channel 7. While Goldi says they really "don't care if we raise money, we just want people to know about

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co. Absopure, Sam's Club, Kroger and UPS - to name a few.

"How many ways can you say thank you," said Goldi. "Everybody is doing some special thing for the race."

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