

## PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE

# Tight-knit family always on Team Bo

**Matheny which serves people with special needs, will hold a virtual fundraiser**

Bozena (Bo) Geraghty was born with Cornelia de Lange syndrome, a rare genetic condition that presents some challenging symptoms.

Her parents, Mike and Liz Geraghty of Cranford, cared for Bo at home until 2009. Bo was growing fast and it became difficult for Liz, her primary caregiver, to safely lift her, so they investigated residential placements for their beloved daughter.

They chose Matheny after the Recreation Therapy department took Bo on an overnight camping trip soon after she arrived, according to a news release from the Peapack-based nonprofit for people with special needs.

When Miles for Matheny 2010 fundraiser rolled around a few months later, Liz Geraghty saw her opportunity to give back to Matheny. The Geraghtys formed a fundraising team and invited friends and family to join them.

“That first year we had red team T-shirts,” Liz Geraghty recalled. “It was really exciting to see our family come out and support Matheny. Some cycled, some ran and some walked with Bo in the wheelchair walk. Even my dad, who had mobility issues, was able to participate.”

Liz Geraghty is a long-time volunteer and board member of the Friends of Matheny – a nonprofit organization that raises funds for quality-of-life initiatives for people with disabilities.

“We are fortunate to have so many friends we can count on within the Matheny family,” said Bill Kent, Matheny’s new president and CEO. He continued, “Families like the Geraghtys and residents like Bozena are cherished members of our community. We are thankful

to them and all of our supporters for believing in our mission.”

Liz Geraghty said urged people to participate in this year’s Miles for Matheny. The pandemic has caused the shift to a virtual format and members of Team Bo can’t join this year’s wheelchair walk as they have in previous years.

But Liz Geraghty said, “I’m glad to be able to engage others but this year we have to take baby steps. Doing one of the cycle routes is a good step forward.”

All of the usual Miles for Matheny events like The Lu Huggins Wheelchair Walk, the Porzio Kids Fun Run and the 5K are virtual again this year and participants may complete their event before June 20. However, the cycling rides will be held in-person at Liberty Park in Peapack rain or shine on Saturday, June 5.

Miles for Matheny organizers thanked this year’s two top sponsors: The Small Family and Pfizer. All sponsors and donors are listed on the event page.

To register for Miles go to: [www.MilesforMatheny.org](http://www.MilesforMatheny.org).

To donate, go to <http://matheny.org/donate>  
All proceeds go to programs and services for people with disabilities.

Matheny’s mission is to provide exceptional care and an optimal quality of life for children and adults with special needs and medically complex developmental disabilities, according to the release. Matheny is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Somerset County.

To learn more about Matheny, go to <http://www.matheny.org>





**Liz and Mike Geraghty of Cranford with their daughter Bozenia. Bo is a resident of Matheny.** *Courtesy photo*