

Ralph's World set to perform benefit concert at Raue Center

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CRYSTAL LAKE – **Ralph's World** and Raue Center for the Arts will join forces Feb. 27 to benefit the Hope 4 Bridget Foundation with a concert. Five-year-old Bridget Kennicott of Carpentersville recently was diagnosed with late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis, also known as Batten disease.

Affected children suffer mental impairment, worsening seizures, and progressive loss of sight and motor skills.

Eventually, they become blind, bedridden and unable to communicate. Unfortunately, at present, the condition always is fatal.

Batten disease is an "orphan" disease, meaning that it is so rare that drug companies have little incentive to invest in research, so clinical trials are delayed or never initiated.

To support those studying Batten disease, Bridget's family partnered with the Barrington Area Development Council to launch the Hope 4 Bridget Foundation in August 2009.

The foundation's mission is to provide funding for research and education to find a cure for Batten disease and to provide support for the children and families affected by it.

About seven years ago, Ralph Covert, front man of the Chicago indie outfit The Bad Examples, was asked to make a children's record.

As **Ralph's World** toured the country, children, parents and grandparents alike danced and sang along to "Sammy the Dog," "All My Colors," and "Freddy Bear the Teddy Bear." Eight CDs later, **Ralph's World** sells out venues across the country.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m., with the show starting at 11 a.m.

The concert will be followed by a meet and greet with Ralph and the Kennicott family.

The Raue Center is at 26 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake.

Tickets cost \$25 and can be bought by calling the Raue Center Box Office at 815-356-9212 or online at www.rauecenter.org. Children younger than 2 can attend for free.

For information, visit www.ralphsworld.com or www.hope4bridget.com.

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