

# STOP CMV *The CMV Action Network*

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Stop CMV/The CMV Action Network - [www.stopcmv.com](http://www.stopcmv.com)  
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### **Stop CMV Phoenix Event Sparks Spirited Competition with Houston Based CMV Disease Registry**

April 20, 2009 – The National Congenital CMV Disease Registry, long regarded as a resource and support for families of children born with Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV), has shared a valuable partnership with Stop CMV since its inception in 2003. As the first parents groups to work collaboratively with the National Congenital CMV Disease Registry, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Stop CMV has been a grassroots organization at the forefront of CMV awareness, through both public campaigns and events. However, it's most recent event has introduced some spirited competition with the Registry, based at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Stop CMV and the CMV Action Network are sponsoring Stop CMV Day at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona as the Arizona Diamondbacks host the Houston Astros on Sunday June 14, 2009. CMV professionals and families, along with children born affected with Congenital CMV, will be in attendance at the game and will be available for interviews with the press. "The Chase Field event was planned with a very clear goal in mind—to raise public awareness about the dangers of Congenital CMV", says Janelle Greenlee, founder of Stop CMV and the CMV Action Network. Greenlee, along with the event chairperson, Heather Key, are mothers of daughters severely affected with Congenital CMV. "I am a die-hard Diamondbacks fan and as much as I'd love to see a win for my team, I'd be more thrilled to have people hear and learn about CMV", says Key, who serves as the Phoenix Area Representative for Stop CMV.

"We are afraid that we're going to be cheering for our Astros, but we hope for a successful, well-attended event in Phoenix", states Dr. Gail Demmler-Harrison, Professor of Pediatrics with Baylor College of Medicine and Pediatric Infectious Diseases expert at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas who is also Director of the National Congenital CMV Disease Registry. The Registry provides an outreach program consisting of web-based support, written educational material, and an annual newsletter to educate health care professionals, families, and all others interested in learning more about Congenital CMV. "Congenital CMV infection is a major public health problem that continues to be under recognized by our medical and public health care system...Research is being conducted to provide better treatment options and a CMV vaccine for the future", says Dr. Demmler-Harrison.

According to the CDC, 1 in every 150 children (approximately 30,000) are born with Congenital CMV infection in the United States each year. CMV is the most common cause of congenital (meaning from birth) viral infection in the United States and is more common than other well known birth defects, such as Down Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Babies can have varying degrees of brain malformations which can lead to developmental disabilities, such as deafness, blindness, cerebral palsy, mental and/or physical retardation, and even death. For more information about CMV, visit the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/cmV/>. To contact a Stop CMV Representative in your area, please visit [www.stopcmv.com/chapters.php](http://www.stopcmv.com/chapters.php).