



The Ryan Licht Sang
Bipolar Foundation

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THE RYAN LICHT SANG BIPOLAR FOUNDATION

- MISSION:** The Ryan Licht Sang Bipolar Foundation is dedicated to fostering awareness, understanding and research for Child and Adolescent Bipolar Disorder.
- INITIATIVES:** The Foundation has established two strategic initiatives: 1) The Quest For The Test™, will award research funds for investigations focused on finding an empirical test for Bipolar Disorder so that early detection in children and adolescents becomes a reality, and, 2) Awareness and Understanding, which aims to erase the terrible stigma associated with Bipolar Disorder.
- ABOUT BIPOLAR:** Bipolar Disorder is a serious mental illness characterized by recurrent episodes of depression, mania, and/or mixed symptom states. When manic, children and adolescents, in contrast to adults, are more likely to be irritable and prone to destructive outbursts than to be elated or euphoric. When depressed, there may be many physical complaints such as headaches, muscle aches, stomachaches or tiredness, frequent absences from school or poor performance in school, talk of or efforts to run away from home, irritability, complaining, unexplained crying, social isolation, poor communication, and extreme sensitivity to rejection or failure. Other manifestations of manic and depressive states may include alcohol or substance abuse and difficulty with relationships.
- Early-onset bipolar disorder, according to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), potentially affects up to 6% of the adolescents from ages 14 to 18.
- HISTORY:** The Ryan Licht Sang Bipolar Foundation was established in 2004 by Joyce and Dusty Sang in honor of their only child, Ryan Licht Sang, who passed away at the age of 24 because of this insidious disease.
- MEDICAL COMMITTEE:** The Ryan Licht Sang Bipolar Foundation has assembled a Medical Committee of the finest doctors, clinicians, researchers, geneticists, molecular biologists and bioinformatics experts in the country to advise the Foundation on current issues in the field of Child and Adolescent Bipolar Disorder.
- EVENTS:** Throughout the year, the Foundation holds a number of events in different regions of the country designed to raise awareness for Child and Adolescent Bipolar Disorder. Some of the events include: an annual Bipolar Dinner Dance, the Quest For The Test™ 5K Walk, and a Spring Medical Briefing Luncheon.

The Ryan Licht Sang Bipolar Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.