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Appeal to help Keira stand tall

By IAN PROCTOR

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RELATIVES of a little girl who cannot walk properly are trying to raise £50,000 for an operation in America.

Keira Power's aunt, Elaine Power, her paternal grandparents, Joan and Denis Power of Coles Crescent, South Harrow, her other aunt, Denise Power, of Walton Close, North Harrow, and her uncle, Barry Power of Ruislip, have been organising fundraising events.

Keira was born 12 weeks prematurely in February 2005 and later diagnosed with spastic quadriplegia, a form of cerebral palsy that causes stiffness in all four limbs.

The five-year-old, who lives with her parents in Portsmouth, Hampshire, was told she may never walk unaided, but in

September the family discovered spinal nerve surgery known as selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) could give Keira more movement.

Keira does not meet the criteria to have the operation on the NHS. The cost of the procedure in the US is \$52,000 and involves a month-long outpatient stay.

The appeal needs to raise £45-50,000 to cover all the costs of the trip and has already raised £20,000.

Fundraising events include a race night at The Life of Reilly pub in Warwick Parade, Kenton Lane, Harrow, on May 29.

Elaine Power, 31, said: "The fundraising has only come into effect since March, when we found out Keira was eligible for surgery and the hospital gave us a date for the procedure.

"The people of Harrow have been fantastic. The amount of support we have got is amazing."

MORE POWER: Keira's family hope to see her walk without a frame

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