

# 3rd Annual Kara Smiles Fund Moebius Syndrome Awareness Fun Run

January 25, 2020



My name is Kara DeLynn "Sunshine" James; I am 35 years old and I was born with Moebius Syndrome and Poland Syndrome. Moebius syndrome is a rare neurological condition that affects 1 in 500,000 births in the U.S. each year. Moebius syndrome primarily affects the 6th and 7th cranial nerves which controls facial expression and eye movement and leaves people with Moebius unable to have any facial expression! They cannot smile, frown, grimace or blink their eyes. Some children are also born with malformed hands/arms/feet/leg and respiratory problems.

The first 13 years of my life, I walked through life without the ability to show my emotions. When I was 13, I was fortunate enough to go through a life changing surgery to show the world my smile. In 2016, I was presented the opportunity to attend the National Moebius Foundation Conference. It was truly a life changing experience. I never met so many people that looked just like me, that shared the same experiences from their struggles to their triumphs. THIS INSPIRED ME!!

I returned from that conference determined to help raise awareness for Moebius Syndrome and help others achieve their most beautiful smile. I want to show the world that it's not what's on the outside that counts, it's how the person truly is on the inside!

In 2017, I created the Kara Smiles Fund, a charitable fund at the San Angelo Area Foundation. This fund helps to offset medical expense for those needing the "Smile Surgery." Grant distributions from the Kara Smiles Fund are made to qualified medical facilities assisting with qualified medical expenses .



Top Photo: Kara as a toddler  
Middle: Kara on her way to Canada for her first smile surgery.  
Bottom: Kara and the surgeon Dr. Zuker that completed her smile surgery at the 2016 Moebius Syndrome Conference

*See the how the Kara Smiles Fund helped one teenager find her most beautiful smile!*



**Meet Olivia:**

Olivia was born with Moebius Syndrome and while she has an outgoing personality, it was difficult because she couldn't express her emotions. Olivia would hold her head down while walking in the hallways at school because she wished she could smile back at the other students, but couldn't. Olivia waited almost 15 years to have her most beautiful smile and with support from the Kara Smiles Fund, her loving, outgoing personality shines not only from within, but from her beautiful smile!

Left: Olivia and Dr. Snyder-Warwick before "Smile" surgery. Right: Olivia showing off her new beautiful smile.

"My smile has changed my life completely. Smiling has made me more confident walking down the halls at school. It has helped me show my emotions on the outside and it has made me feel like a whole new person! Thank you for helping to change my life and giving me my forever smile." ~Olivia Hale

**January 25, 2020 will be the 3rd Annual Kara Smiles Fun Run and I invite you to consider joining me to help others, like Olivia obtain their own beautiful smile!**

I would like to be a 2020 Sponsor:

Gold \_\_\_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**5K & 1 Mile Moebius Fun Run & Walk**

Saturday, January 25, 2020

9:00 am at Harmon Park (1001 N. River Drive)

Pre- Registration by Jan. 15th: \$25 (13+) , \$10 (kids)

Race Day Registration begins at 8:15 am: \$30 (13+), \$15 (kids)

<http://getmeregistered.com/MoebiusRun>

**Overall & Age Division Awards for 5K Racers**

**Top Male & Top Female 1 Mile**

For more information or sponsorship opportunities:

Kara James (325) 234-6942 or [karasmilesformoebius@gmail.com](mailto:karasmilesformoebius@gmail.com)

To make a donation visit [www.saafound.org/karasmiles](http://www.saafound.org/karasmiles)

**Sponsorships:**

**Gold \$1,000**

- Share about your business on race day
- Company Logo on Race Banner
- Company Logo on T-shirt
- Recognition on Social Media

**Silver \$500**

- Company Logo on Race Banner
- Company name on T-shirt
- Recognition on Social Media

**Bronze \$250**

- Company name on T-shirt
- Recognition on Social Media

*Free Moebius T-Shirt for first 100 racers!*