

Kayakers rush to find \$200,000 off Blues Point, just for children

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ALL IN THE FAMILY: The Yeungs (from front), Mark and Adam, 4; Bianca, 11; Natalie, 12; Therese and Alan. Picture: TIM LAPPI

A KAYAKING event is raising money for Lifestart so more children like little Mark Yeung can get the support they need.

Lifestart has been helping Mark, 4, who has Down syndrome, since he was six weeks old.

Mark has just celebrated a milestone - he started school at St Lucy's, Wahroonga.

Mark's mother Therese, of Lindfield, said Lifestart had been instrumental in his development and helped the family.

"We would be lost without the support Lifestart gave us," she said about the organisation which helps children with intellectual disabilities or delayed development and their families.

"Mark just loves getting on the school bus in the morning."

On Sunday, March 28, kayakers will paddle from Blues Point to Clontarf, in four 4.5km stages, to raise money for Lifestart.

The event is suitable for kayakers of many levels, with a novice competition for teams of four to 12, a three-person challenge for those able to kayak the entire 17.5km course and solo and doubles categories.

Mrs Yeung has involved her family and friends each year, organising kayaks in the relay challenge.

"It's a fun, practical way to raise money for Lifestart and a good chance to get out of the house to spend time together," she said.

The event, which is in its third year, raised \$120,000 last year. And this year Lifestart hopes to raise \$200,000.

Fundraising manager Christopher Cummings said the event attracted 480 paddlers last year and the organisation anticipated many more next month.

Register your kayaking team at kayakforkids.com.au or donate money via the Yeung family's kayak team fundraising page, everydayhero.com.au/OnYaMark . - Alex Ward, work experience