

HAMAD FAMILY BIO

The Hamad Family currently resides in Staten Island, NY. Once a family of 9, the Hamads' turned to MDA's Telethon and New York Muscle Team when two of their sons, Mahmoud and Kareem, were diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Mahmoud felt happiest and most accepted at Muscle Team, where he developed a strong and unique bond with former NY Jets athletes, John Abraham and Shaun Ellis, as well as the Muscle Team committee, particularly this year's Master of Ceremonies, Russ Salzberg.

Sadly, in 2003, Mahmoud lost his battle to Duchenne when his heart failed. Some years after his passing, Kareem also lost his battle, and just four months after Kareem's passing, the Hamads' youngest boy, Ahmed, lost his battle when he suffered a cardiac arrest.

With all the heartache and heartbreak this family has incurred over the years, they still look to find *hope* in this world, and look to keep up the spirit of their eldest son, Mahmoud, of whom the Champion of Spirit award was created.