

HLA-NJ News and Views

A Monthly Column from The Hearing Loss Association of NJ

By Peter Yerkes, Trustee, HLA-NJ

Sign Up Now!

Registration Is Easy, And The Walk Is Fun

Step Out For People With Hearing Loss

HLA-NJ'S WALK4HEARING 2011

October 15, 2011

Registration 9 A.M. Walk at 10 A.M.

Mercer County Park West, West Windsor, NJ

www.walk4hearing.org

One of the best things about the Walk4Hearing is that there are so many ways to take part. Some people go on their own to enjoy a day at beautiful Mercer County Park West in West Windsor. Others – who know that the Walk4Hearing is the most important fund-raiser of the year for activities benefiting the people with hearing loss, but who can't be present – send a donation.

Many people find, however that the more involved they are, the more they get out of the event. You can learn the basics about the Walk4Hearings that are held across the country at the website of the Hearing Loss Association of America, www.hearingloss.org. Then follow the links that take you to the main site for national walks, www.walk4hearing.org, and then to the site for the Garden State NJ Fall Walk, which is http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=1906&pg=entry.

There, you will find easy instructions on several options for effective fundraising. You can start a team, join a team, or walk as an individual. People walk in groups of families and friends, or as representatives of universities, non-profits, companies and other organizations that serve people with hearing loss. One thing they all have in common is that they set a fundraising goal; no amount is too small, or too large and ask friends, family members and others to join in donating. And in doing so, they spread the word about hearing loss to all their contacts.

You can also read interesting and inspirational biographies of people involved in the walk on the Walk4Hearing Web site. People such as Arlene Romoff, president of HLA-NJ. She sums up the mission of Garden State-NJ Walk4Hearing: "To increase awareness of the causes and consequences of hearing loss, and to raise funds to provide information and support for people with hearing loss." Ms. Romoff says she named her team "Ask Arlene" because so many people come to her frustrated about the lack of readily accessible information on hearing loss. Thanks to funds from the Walk4Hearing, Ms. Romoff and HLA-NJ are some of the best sources of information in New Jersey about hearing loss. Walk4Hearing has made possible such advocacy achievements as legislation requiring that medical insurance cover hearing aids for children, captioned movies and live theater performances, college scholarships for high school graduates with hearing loss, working with hospitals to sensitize them to hearing loss issues, and demonstration centers to try out FM devices and other assistive listening technology.

Another walker is Marie Nordling, who named her team "Edy's Angels" in honor of the late Edythe Brown. Ms. Brown was instrumental in forming a support group for people with hearing loss that now meets monthly in South Plainfield, as one of the local chapters of HLA-NJ.

Other groups and individuals range from Montclair State University's team of Audiology professors and students, to Sandy Spekman's "Hear Ye! Hear Ye!" team, and "O/M Seabirds," sponsored by Carol Granaldi, which invites participants to "Take wing, soar above the sand and sea"...and contribute to her team!

People support the Walk for many reasons. Some have benefitted first-hand from the support, advocacy and education of HLA-NJ. Some raise funds on behalf of a child, parent or friend with hearing loss, or because they want to see "the invisible disability," as hearing loss is sometimes known, receive the national attention it deserves. The Walk itself is a 5K (3.1 miles) stroll through one of the state's loveliest public parks. But some participants walk for less than that, or simply sit on benches and look at the beautiful lake and trees, watch kids enjoying a moon bounce and face painting and a playground, or enjoy a hot dog or other snack.

The Walk is also a chance to see old friends, or make new ones. Every year scores of people come, and each has his own involvement with hearing loss. But they all have certain things in common. They know how difficult hearing loss can be, and they are determined to help advocate to see that people with hearing loss get the services and support they deserve. Please join us. It's the most important day of the year for New Jerseyans who want to support people with hearing loss.

Information is available from www.walk4hearing.org , or from Walk Chairperson Laura Lindson at llindson@aol.com or HLA-NJ President Arlene Romoff at aromoff@aol.com.