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Walk for Hearing

by Lynn Miller



Last year's Walk4Hearing

Hearing Loss Association of America's sixth annual Garden State-NJ Walk4Hearing is taking place on Sunday, October 20, in Mercer County Park West. Hundreds of New Jersey volunteers will participate in the 5K walk so that people of all ages — from babies to seniors — can get the programs, support, and services they need to meet the challenges of hearing loss.

One of the volunteers is Julie Troger, a Plainsboro resident for 23 years. "This is the second year that I am involved with the Walk for Hearing," she says. "It is a wonderful day to help raise money and awareness for those with hearing loss."

Born and raised in New York City, she graduated from Oneonta State College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She received a dual master's degree in deaf education and teaching the handicapped from Boston University. She then graduated from Union County College as a certified educational interpreter. She is an educational interpreter in Hamilton Township.

"I became involved with DBLNJ (the Deaf Blind League of New Jersey) during my course work at UCC," she says. "I have been active in the organization for the past six years and now hold the membership chair position."

The event provides education about hearing loss, helps erase the stigma associated with it, and raises funds for programs and services. "Hearing loss is largely misunderstood, although it is a significant public health issue that is third in line nationally after heart disease and arthritis," says Wayne Roorda, NJ Walk4Hearing Chair. "It's important to get the word out that this is a complicated condition that affects people of all ages and impacts all aspects of everyday life."

Walk4Hearing, Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey, Mercer County Park, West Windsor. Sunday, October 20, 10 a.m. 5K walk, kids activities, food. All ages. The walk begins at 11 a.m. 732-222-5546. www.walk4hearing.org.