

Walk to End Alzheimer's returns Oct. 22

Written by Staff Reports

Friday, 14 October 2022 05:04



The Walk to End Alzheimer's has been going on since 1989. This year's local event will take place on Oct. 22 at the Fox Run Golf Course, 1109 Susan Ave.

On that day, participants will honor those affected by Alzheimer's with the poignant Promise Garden ceremony — a mission-focused experience that signifies a solidarity in the fight against the disease. According to a press release published by the New Mexico chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, the colors of the Promise Garden flowers represent people's connection to Alzheimer's — their personal reasons to end the disease.

According to the press release, the Association is making sure that the health and safety of participants, staff and volunteers is its top priority. The Alzheimer's Association will continue to closely monitor CDC, state and local guidelines to ensure Walk events adhere to the latest recommendations.

"The enthusiasm this community shows for the Walk to End Alzheimer's is inspiring," Tori Rohrer, the Northwest Regional Manager of the Alzheimer's Association, NM Chapter, said. "We see all kinds of wonderful, motivated people who are getting involved with this cause through the Walk. We see families impacted by dementia and people who just want to help - all coming together for a cure. Each of them [is] committed to ending this disease."

"The funds that participants raise are critical to our mission to end Alzheimer's and dementia, and we are humbled by the support," Tim Sheahan, the Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association, NM Chapter, said. "Those family members, neighbors and friends are counting on us to help find a breakthrough, and thanks to dedicated community members, we are able to fund cutting edge research that, hopefully, will do just that."

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease – a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

In New Mexico alone, there are more than 43,000 people living with the disease and 85,000 caregivers.

To register and receive the latest updates on this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's in Gallup, visit: act.alz.org/walkgallup or contact Tori Rohrer at tlrohrer@alz.org or (505) 278-7927.

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