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Sixth Annual Easter Seals Walk With Me Raises Awareness and Solidarity among Those With and Without Disabilities

By Allan Zuniga (/profile/allan-zuniga2) · 03/29/2015

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Hoboken, N.J. – March 27, 2015 – Be a part of history and support a great cause at this year's Sixth Annual Walk with Me and 5K Run. Easter Seals New Jersey's Walk With Me is a national fundraising event to raise awareness and support for families living with disabilities. During Walk With Me events, individual walkers and teams come together for a day full of entertainment and fun to show solidarity among those with and without disabilities.

This year, Easter Seals aims to break the Guinness World Record for the world's longest high-five chain. To win, 2,000 participants ages 10 and up are needed to turn to their neighbors and say, "Gimme five!"

The race kicks off at 9:30 a.m., with the parking-lot festivities beginning an hour later at 10:30 a.m.

Other highlights of the day include:

- Guinness World Record Attempt for the Longest High-Five Chain
- Event hosted by NASH FM Radio DJ Kelly Ford & Nascar Driver Parker Kligerman
- Special Guest Appearances by NY Giants' James Davidson & License Plate Guy, Miss NJ, Snoopy, D2W Wrestlers
- Kids activities and sponsor booths on the field
- "Passport to Wellness" Health Fair
- Parking Lot Party with food & race awards. (Sandwiches sponsored by

Jersey Mike's Subs) [Text Box: Easter Seals program participants enjoying festivities on the MetLife stadium field with supporters.]



More than 150,000 people have participated in 500 Walk With Me events nationwide since the first one in 2010, generating more than \$30 million to support families who benefit from Easter Seals' services.

Last year NFL Films was on site to capture video at the Fifth Annual [Walk With Me 2014](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE7_xmKwlo&feature=youtu.be) (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE7_xmKwlo&feature=youtu.be) 5K run which attracted 1,400 people and raising more than \$150,000 for individuals with disabilities and special needs in New Jersey.

“This event is fantastic...this is my third year already and I plan on doing this every year,” said local celebrity Joe Ruback, also known as License Plate Guy, the renowned New York Giants Superfan who has led the walk for the last two years.

In the United States, one in five people live with a disability. These can include mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, and autism, which are affecting more families every year.

Easter Seals believes that everyone, no matter their level of ability, deserves the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play in their communities with equality, dignity and independence. Ninety-five percent of funds that Easter Seals New Jersey receives go directly toward serving clients. Donations help pay for:

- Camp Merry Heart – one of the few camps for people of various abilities, the camp offers recreational and travel opportunities to clients and respite to family caregivers. Attendees at Walk With Me can hear more about this program directly from Easter Seals Ambassadors.
- Group Residences – assist people living with the challenges of mental illness and developmental disabilities. These community houses help clients maintain their independence and participate in, and enjoy their communities. Event ambassador Doug B. will be on-hand to answer questions about his experience.
- Workforce Development Programs – give people with developmental disabilities a path to work and independence. These include the High School - High Tech program, focusing on offering developmentally disabled teens

opportunities to explore jobs in science and technology. Additionally, skill evaluation, training, and supported employment help those with disabilities gain entrance to the workplace.

Anyone can join the Easter Seals New Jersey Walk With Me 2015 [sponsors \(http://es.easterseals.com/site/TR/WalkWithMe/WWMNewJersey?pg=entry&fr_id=3552#.VMAISUc5CUk\)](http://es.easterseals.com/site/TR/WalkWithMe/WWMNewJersey?pg=entry&fr_id=3552#.VMAISUc5CUk) including Century 21, CVS Health and others, plus members of the community at MetLife Stadium on April 18th to take part in the walk, run the 5K, exchange some high-fives and know that it all supports a great cause.

Participants may start a new team, join an existing team OR sign up as an individual. Registration is FREE for walkers (note: 5K Run Registrants have a required \$25 registration fee). To register or learn more, visit <http://www.walkwithme.org/nj> (<http://www.walkwithme.org/nj>) or contact:

Michelle Kasper, Special Events Manager

732.955.8368

walkwithme@nj.easterseals.com

About Easter Seals New Jersey

Easter Seals New Jersey has helped New Jersey residents with special needs integrate with their communities since 1948. Each year, more than 8,000 people receive training and services from Easter Seals programs. Clients include people with autism, mental illness, physical disabilities and other special needs. Fundraisers like Walk With Me help Easter Seals New Jersey continue to provide these vital services.

Visit the website at <http://www.eastersealsnj.org> (<http://www.eastersealsnj.org>), like Easter Seals New Jersey on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/eastersealsnj> (<http://www.facebook.com/eastersealsnj>), or, contact them by phone at 732/257-6662.

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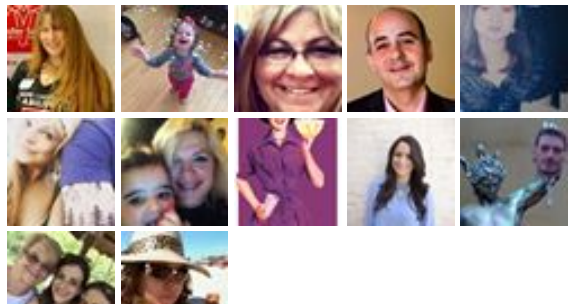
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