

# Brighton Kidney Walk 2007

The 5th Annual Brighton Kidney Walk held on September 8, 2007, was a tremendous success surpassing the \$50,000 that was fund-raised last year, with donations continuing to come in.

It was extraordinary in other ways as well. The weather was fantastic. Fifteen Eastern Michigan University sorority sisters gave TLC, great champion tee shirts, Panera sandwiches, massage, face painting and nail varnishing to dialysis patients, transplant patients, donors, and to families of loved ones who died of kidney disease. The tee shirts defined Champions "***not as people for whom everything goes their way, but as people constantly overcoming adversity.***" People with kidney disease very much appreciated this sentiment and put the tee shirt on immediately.



Many more patients and families took part in the Lap of Honor this year and walkers who fund-raised more than \$1,000 were inducted into the High Strider Club. These wonderful committed folks were interviewed and we learned that one person's fiance would be transplanted four days after the walk. She introduced him and his future donor, his nephew, receiving great applause. Carol's Crew, 15 members of a family who lost their mother this year to kidney disease, talked about what an extraordinary soul she was. Charity Choir, a group of dialysis patients and staff, commemorated the loss of one of its members this year.

Our DJ, a 5-year transplant patient, got walkers dancing to his music backed by a local fraternity who joined in the fun. Walkers received great goody bags from Kroger with coupons for Panera and delicious fresh bagels and apples.

The Mayor pro tem, committee members and other volunteers, and the sorority and fraternity members all asked to be involved next year, a sure sign that the walk contributed to everyone.

The Brighton Walk Committee and the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan would like to thank the University of Michigan Health System for all the support we have received in having this be the Walk that moves and is moving, a walk of commitment and caring.