



PARKINSON'S

UNITY WALK Newsletter

2005

12 Months and \$1,000,000 Raised for Research!

By Martin Tuchman, Chairman of the Board, Parkinson's Unity Walk

“Can you imagine if the Parkinson's Unity Walk raised one million dollars for research in under 12 months?” That was the comment made at a board meeting about five years ago. The remark came from Earl Ubell, our Vice President who suffers with Parkinson's disease and once held key reporting and editing posts at WCBS-TV and Parade magazine. We are proud to say it has become a reality. The 11th Walk raised over \$1,000,000 for Parkinson's research!

“Getting to this goal hasn't been easy,” says Margot Zobel, the founding leader. “The idea of a Walk didn't come without much opposition.” When she first posed the thought to her Parkinson's support group and others, she was greeted by the typical retort of “Parkinson's patients don't walk”. That didn't dishearten her and she decided to start the Walk whether 2 or 200 people showed up. It's through her strength, tenacity and optimism that the PUW exists.



Martin Tuchman

With the help of Kenneth Aidekman and a core team of volunteers, Margot's inspiration came to life in 1994. Over 200 participants walked from Central Park West, at 96th Street, to Columbus Circle and raised \$16,000. Through hard work, compassion and dedication, news of the Walk spread. Since its historic start, attendance has grown to its now impressive 8,500 people and \$1,000,000 raised in under 12 months.

Each year people come together to offer support, raise awareness and receive important information about PD. It has become the largest fundraising and education day for the Parkinson's community in the country and people often tell me the ‘inspirational feeling’ the Walk creates keeps them coming back. It's remarkable to have a Walk that brings the community together while funding promising research through the major national Parkinson's foundations. The common goal of unifying and finding a cure is evident.

One way we are promoting the Walk is through local and national media. Prior to the Walk, we were seen throughout the country in 86 million homes by way of The Weather Channel. Their live interviews and on-site presence helped to raise awareness and educate the public about Parkinson's disease. Also, many local radio, TV stations, and newspapers have publicized the Walk year after year through scheduled public service announcements, personal stories, and advertisements. We have

reached millions of people through these important means.

Our teams and volunteers rise to the challenge and work year-round to get the word out. They set personal goals and do whatever it takes to reach them. They don't take a day off. It's because of their compassion that we have reached this milestone. Tony Necco, team captain and top fundraiser of CSFB Walkers, is an example of this dedication.

His special story is shared on the back of this newsletter.

On behalf of Earl Ubell, and all those who suffer with this devastating disease, thank you for reaching out, taking action and raising over \$1,000,000—a new record for Parkinson's research! From the very beginning, 100% all of the donations raised has been and continues to be designated for research. To read about grants that the Parkinson's Unity Walk has funded through the participating foundations, please visit our web site at www.unitywalk.org.

Donations support research for the following foundations:

- American Parkinson Disease Association
- National Parkinson Foundation
- Parkinson's Action Network
- Parkinson's Disease Foundation
- The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
- The Parkinson Alliance
- The Parkinson's Institute

For more information, please call 1-866-PUW-WALK (1-866-789-9255) or visit our web site at www.unitywalk.org.

"Team Members" Join Together for a Greater Cause **CSFB Walkers** **(Credit Suisse First Boston)**

By Trina Stokes

CSFB Walkers team members joined forces and raised over \$17,000 for Parkinson's research during the 11th Parkinson's Unity Walk on April 16th in Central Park. Out of 260 teams that helped the Walk reach over \$1,000,000 for Parkinson's research in less than 12 months, this team was number five.

Team captain Tony Necco heard about the Walk approximately four years ago when a fellow colleague at CSFB was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease (PD). Tony was interested in doing all he could because his mother-in-law was diagnosed 10 years ago and his father had PD for many years.

"Initially it was a struggle to raise \$500. Word about the Walk began to spread and people wanted to help because they had a father, a mother or a friend that had Parkinson's disease. We had a mission and decided to do everything we could to raise awareness," said Tony Necco.

To help get the word out, team members sent out emails and letters to family and friends. They used the Unity Walk web site to set up a personal web page and set their fundraising goal. Supporters were able to make online donations quickly and easily through their team web page. They also took advantage of Credit Suisse First Boston's corporate Philanthropy News Bulletin and used this source to announce their participation with the Parkinson's Unity Walk.

Much of the team's success comes from two tireless co-captains, Kristin Loucks and Sami Robbana, whose fathers suffer from PD. "Their determination helped expand the team to 64 members," said Tony.

"Our energy to find a cure for Parkinson's disease comes from our loved ones," said Tony. "My father was a fighter and had a love for life. He worked for the U.S. Navy on the docks in Brooklyn," Tony explained. "My grandfather often said, 'It's you and me kid—let's conquer the world,'" said Alli Necco. "We want to find a cure so the next generation can concentrate on other things. Let's get this taken care of," Tony pronounced.

"Parkinson's takes a toll on the whole family. It's not easy to see our loved ones suffer so our team uses this special day to bond together, get educational information and walk to express our purpose and help find a cure. Sami's father lives in Tunisia, and when he travels to North Africa he brings all the information he can to show him what others are doing to help him," said Tony. Seeing thousands of people at the



Team Members of Credit Suisse First Boston

Walk, holding up their signs and walking for a cure is truly inspiring. Alli further stressed, "This will not be our last Walk until a cure is found."

2005 **Top 25 PUW Teams!**

1. Mag Queen's Team—\$59,431
2. Team Cantore—\$53,921
3. Betty's Bunch—\$35,060
4. Parkin-Sons And Daughters—\$26,947
5. CSFB Walkers—\$17,485
6. Light Of Day Foundation—\$16,244
7. Team Suchoff—\$16,003
8. Walk At The Shore For Parkinson's—\$15,404
9. Flossie's Faithful Fan Club—\$14,463
10. Team Rhode Island—\$10,826
11. Tampa Bay Movers & Shakers—\$10,366
12. Barbara's Team of Hope—\$10,146
13. Jenn's Movers and the Shakers—\$9,368
14. Christian Claessens—\$9,349
15. Rutgers Pharmacy—\$8,932
16. Team Terry—\$8,385
17. North Jersey Walkers—\$7,332
18. Miracle Marvins—\$7,140
19. Livin' La Levodopa—\$7,115
20. Full of Schmidt—\$7,068
21. The Turtle Gang—\$6,988
22. Poughkeepsie Parkies—\$6,880
23. Kossoff Crew—\$6,501
24. Team Gordon—\$6,320
25. Team Klavans—\$6,186

Start Your Fundraising Now!

Join the
Parkinson's Unity Walk
Community & Education Day
in April 2006

For more information, please visit our web site at www.unitywalk.org or call 1-866-PUW-WALK (1-866-789-9255)

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