



## ABOUT THE PARKINSON'S UNITY WALK

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The **Parkinson's Unity Walk (PUW)**, a grassroots organization, began in 1994 through the dedicated efforts of people with Parkinson's disease (PD), along with their families and friends, and other support groups affected by PD. Their main goal was to raise awareness and funds for research to find a cure for Parkinson's.

Generous donations of time and service to the Walk have expanded fund-raising and awareness well beyond earlier expectations. Over the last fifteen years, PUW has grown from 200 participants in the first event, to well over 10,000 participants in the 2009 Walk. The funds raised for PUW have also dramatically increased with each passing year. In 1994, PUW raised \$16,000 in research funds and in 2009, raised over \$1.5 million for Parkinson's research.

Donations from the Unity Walk have gone to support research for the following major Parkinson's disease foundations in the United States:

- 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 & Clinical Center

The Parkinson's Unity Walk directs donated funds to increase research to find a cure. Six of the seven participating organizations use the dollars they receive to fund specific research studies. The Parkinson's Action Network seeks to maximize federal funding of Parkinson's research through a collaborative nationwide advocacy effort.

From the very beginning, 100% all of the donations raised by walkers and contributors has been and continues to be designated for research. Corporate sponsors and individual research foundations fund the operating expenses of the PUW.

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