

Scleroderma

It's More Than Skin Deep

Scleroderma is a chronic, often progressive, autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues.

Scleroderma primarily strikes women in their childbearing years. While it occurs almost four times more often in women than in men, scleroderma also attacks children. The disease is not contagious, hereditary or cancerous, but its symptoms can vary from mild to life-threatening and from individual to individual.

The word scleroderma is derived from the Greek (sclero/hard, derma/skin). The disease can cause thickening or tightening of the skin, as well as serious damage to internal organs.

The Scleroderma Foundation New England (SFNE) helps individuals and their families cope with the disease. A major part of the Chapter's mission is to raise funds for scleroderma research, because its cause is not known, and, presently, there is no cure.

The proceeds from the Worcester Walk helped make it possible for the New England Chapter to give \$150,000 to the National Scleroderma Foundation's Research Program in 2008 to help find the cause of and cure for this puzzling disease.

Your Help Is Needed

SFNE is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and, as such, all contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. It receives no government funding and is entirely dependent on contributions from the public to fund its mission.

For more information on scleroderma, and how you can support the efforts seeking its cause and cure, please call SFNE, toll free, at **1-888-525-0658**.

 **SCLERODERMA
FOUNDATION**
462 Boston Street, 1-1
Topsfield, MA 01983



Seventh Annual WORCESTER WALK-A-THON

Sunday, May 3, 2009

Rain or Shine

Sign-in 10 AM - Walk at Noon

To be held from the
Bancroft School
110 Shore Drive
Worcester, MA

[www.scleroderma.org/chapter/newengland/
2009WorcesterWalk.htm](http://www.scleroderma.org/chapter/newengland/2009WorcesterWalk.htm)

Proceeds from this annual 5K walk
will benefit those served by


**SCLERODERMA
FOUNDATION**
SUPPORT · EDUCATION · RESEARCH
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

TIPS FOR LOTS OF WALK FUN

DECIDE TO WALK AND SPREAD THE WORD

Be a walker - rain or shine - on Sunday, May 3, 2009, from the Bancroft School. Tell your family and friends . . . invite them to participate and raise funds too. You may walk in honor or in memory of someone, or just to have fun raising money to find the cure for a serious disease.

WALK AS PART OF A TEAM

There is a contagious energy that comes from being on a team. When people join together for a worthy cause, they have a great time. Organize a team of friends, family, co-workers, classmates.

ASK EVERYONE TO SPONSOR YOU

If you don't ask, people won't give. Ask family and friends first; branching out is easy. Donations are based on the fact that you are walking and not on how far you are walking.

COLLECT YOUR PLEDGES UP FRONT

Collect as you go to cut down on the running around you would have to do after the walk. Cash is fine when collecting before the event, but, when handing in your sponsorship form, please convert the cash to a check or money order. All checks and money orders should be made payable to SFNE (Scleroderma Foundation New England).

HAVE YOUR OWN WEB PAGE

You can set up your own internet pledge page and register for the Walk through the Worcester Walk website: www.scleroderma.org/chapter/newengland/2009WorcesterWalk.htm. There you can link to Firstgiving, which partners with the Scleroderma Foundation, and set up your own pledge page to e-mail to your contacts around the world and include it in your social networks like Facebook.

REMIND SPONSORS ABOUT MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies match their employees' contributions to non-profit organizations. Even if the company doesn't have a formal matching gifts program, they may consider matching the funds raised by individual employees and their family members with a grant from the company. Please provide SFNE with information for follow-up.

Have Questions

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Need Updates

Call Scleroderma Foundation New England toll free at 888-525-0658 or visit the Walk website at:

www.scleroderma.org/chapter/newengland/2009WorcesterWalk.htm

DIRECTIONS TO BANCROFT SCHOOL, WHERE THE WALK WILL BEGIN

FROM THE MASS TURNPIKE

From the West: Take Exit 10, Auburn. After tolls, bear left and get onto I-290 East toward Worcester. Follow directions below from I-290.

From the East: Take Exit 11A, Westborough. Marked Route 495 North (toward Marlborough). Take I-290 West toward Worcester. Follow directions below from I-290.

FROM THE NORTH ON I-190

Take Exit 2, Ararat Street. After going straight through the first set of lights, follow sign for Shore Drive. At second set of lights, turn

right. Bancroft School is the second building on the right (after the YMCA). Park in front driveway or in parking lot beyond buildings.

FROM THE EAST OR WEST ON I-290

Take Exit 19 (marked Holden, Fitchburg, I-190, Route 12). Take first exit (Exit 1) before Greendale Mall. Enter Route 12 North and immediately cross into left lane to take first left (access road to I-190). Next, take immediate right fork to Norton Drive. Turn left at traffic lights. Bancroft School is the second building on the right (after the YMCA). Park in front driveway or in parking lot beyond buildings.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Business Phone _____ / _____ Ext. _____

Home Phone _____ / _____

E-mail address: _____

The name of the team I plan to walk with is:

Pre-register on-line or return this form by April 23 and get a **free** T-Shirt.

T-Shirt size: ____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL

WAIVER: I understand that my participation in the Seventh Annual Worcester Walk-A-Thon is voluntary and at my own risk. Under no circumstances will the Bancroft School, the Scleroderma Foundation, the Scleroderma Foundation New England, their staffs, Board of Directors or volunteers be responsible for any injury or damages incurred by me or my property. I agree to permit the free use of my name and picture in any broadcast, telecast or other account of this event.

Signature

Signature of Parent or Guardian
(if participant is under 18 years old)

Please return to:

**Worcester Walk-A-Thon
SFNE**

**462 Boston Street, Suite 1-1
Topfield, MA 01983**