

Collin Creek Mall to host Scleroderma Walk

By **SHELLY MARTZ**
Contributor

Collin Creek Mall will host the Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk on Saturday for the third consecutive year. The annual event supports the efforts of The Scleroderma Foundation's Texas Bluebonnet Chapter, which raises funds to help those afflicted with the autoimmune disease.

The walk will include a live DJ, face painting for children, door prizes and T-shirts included in the registration fee.

"We are walking not only to raise funds, but also to raise awareness about scleroderma and to be able to hold the walk at Collin Creek Mall gives us an opportunity to interact with a larger audience," said Gary Brannum, Scleroderma Walk chair, who expects more than 200 participants this year.

Brannum became involved with the Scleroderma Foundation after his wife was diagnosed with systemic scleroderma nine years ago.

"We learned that there is 'no known cause therefore no known cure,' and I want to do all I can to raise awareness and funds that will hopefully someday lead to a cure" he said.

June is Scleroderma Awareness Month. Throughout the month, the foundation's national network of 22 chapters and 160 support groups engage in a variety of events designed to generate greater awareness and understanding of this chronic, debilitating and often fatal disease, as well as to raise funds to support the work of the foundation.



Photo submitted by GARY BRANNUM

Valerie Stephenson and Oz Johnson attended the Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk last year.

IF YOU GO

What: Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk

When: 8:30 a.m. Saturday; Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. in Center Court on the lower level.

Where: Inside Collin Creek Mall, North Central Expressway and West Plano Parkway

More info: Registration is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 6 and younger. Registered walkers will receive a T-shirt. To register, visit tinyurl.com/SclerodermaWalk.

The Dallas/Fort Worth Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma walk is just one of more than 40 such events happening throughout the country during June.

Shelly Martz contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of Collin Creek Mall.