

Team Dorsey Receives Plaque at 2016 Walk

Picture a person standing firmly in place, not wavering or budging an inch, and you'll have a good sense of **Betty Dorsey**.

According to her family, whatever storm came, she was firmly planted and determined to follow through no matter how hard the circumstances were. In spite of the pain, sickness, and setbacks, Betty had a wonderful outlook on life. She may have battled scleroderma for over twenty years, but she lived life to the fullest.

Betty and her children, Adrienne and Ebony, heard about the Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk while attending various medical conferences. They decided to join the first walk in 2008. Just like the other families, the Dorseys wanted to raise money for research and a possible cure for scleroderma. The t-shirts, camaraderie, and the people all made the walk a cheerful and inviting place. Families found strength in numbers and built new relationships and bonds.

Ebony, who lives in Bowie, Maryland, says, "Joining the walk was a way for us to show our solidarity. We all came with one common goal. We wanted to raise money and awareness. I loved bonding with my family members. I loved supporting my mother. Most importantly, I loved seeing other families who shared the same struggle as us."

The Dorsey Team has expanded since 2008. It now includes family and friends from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. As the Dorsey Team has grown each year, so have the team contributions. At the 2015 Walk, Betty was extremely disappointed the Dorsey Team did not make the top three fundraising teams. After her passing in October 2015, as a tribute to her life and legacy, the Dorsey Team's aim was to be the number one fundraising team in 2016.

"Participating in the annual Scleroderma Walk was very important to my mom, which made it very important to me," says Adrienne, who also lives in Bowie, Maryland. "It also felt good to know that we were not in this fight alone. Most people have never heard of scleroderma, and it is up to those of us who have been affected by the disease to help increase awareness and raise money for further research."

"I never knew of scleroderma until Aunt Betty was diagnosed several years ago," says Sharon, Betty's niece from Waldorf, Maryland. "Participating in the walk and/or providing financial support has been a wonderful way to stand alongside family believing a cure is out there. We believe it wholeheartedly. I love the bond our family shares each time this walk occurs. We are determined to fight and win for Aunt Betty and all those who have experienced scleroderma."

Spearheaded by Adrienne, the Dorsey Team was able to garner enough financial support to be the top team at the 2016 Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma 5K Walk/Run! Please join the Chapter in thanking and congratulating Team Dorsey for their commitment and dedication to all of our Walks!



Team Dorsey Displays Plaque at 2016 Walk



Team Dorsey at the 2008 Walk

A Tribute to Betty Dorsey



Betty Dorsey was diagnosed with scleroderma in 1994. Her children, Adrienne and Ebony, were very young when she was first diagnosed, but they were with Betty every step of the way. Betty's loving family also played an integral part in helping her battle scleroderma. Her five brothers and sisters, Della, Elizabeth, Hermenia, Sammie and Richard, were only a phone call away and would come anytime their little sister needed them.

Betty worked for the Food and Drug Administration for over 30 years. In her 33rd year of service, Betty's illness made it quite challenging for her to continue as the office manager. In 2006, Betty retired as the

Director of the Division of Freedom of Information.

Betty shared her time and her talents with everyone. Not only was she a wonderful daughter, sister, mother, cousin, and friend, she was also an active member in her church. She served on numerous ministries; she was instrumental in the church meeting its operating expenses and financial obligations, and even when her health began to fail, she still sent in her tithes and offerings.

May 21, 2016 was a bittersweet day for the Dorsey Team. It was their first Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk without Betty. Betty returned to her heavenly home on October 27, 2015, after a valiant battle with scleroderma. Her devotion to her family and her enduring belief in God supported her in her struggle and ultimately gave her peace. Her favorite scripture was Romans 8:28 - *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* All things did work together for the Dorsey Team. Betty was rejoicing with them as they were victorious in their efforts.

"Participating in this year's Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma was important to me because I wanted to raise funds to continue research and to make strides in one day curing scleroderma," says long-time family friend Gernethia from Washington, DC. "I also enjoyed supporting the Dorsey Family as they have always done for me since my infant days!"

Cierra, Betty's niece from Philadelphia, says, "Participating in the Scleroderma Walk was important to me because it was important to Aunt Bet. It's one day where the whole family could get together to support Aunt Bet and raise money for a good cause."

The Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC Chapter is very grateful to the Dorsey family for sharing their memories of Betty with us and for inspiring all of us. We also thank them for their efforts to help the Chapter raise funds through our Walk for scleroderma research and to provide support services and educational forums to our members and their families.

Sjögren's Walkabout & Autoimmune Disease Health Fair



The Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC Chapter will participate in the **Sjögren's Walkabout & Autoimmune Disease Health Fair on Saturday, June 11, 2016, from 9:00am-11:00am**. The Chapter will have an information table and representatives at the event to share information about scleroderma and the Chapter's activities.

This event is hosted by the Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation and provides valuable information about the different autoimmune diseases affecting so many people. The event also offers the opportunity for people to participate in a walk, form teams, and win prizes. If you plan to attend, please stop by and visit us at our table. **For more information, please**

visit events.sjogrens.org.

Event Details:

Registration & Health Fair Open at 9am
Walkabout Steps Off at 10am
Health Fair Closes at 11am

Event Location:

Two Democracy Plaza 6707 Democracy Boulevard
Bethesda, MD

June is Scleroderma Awareness Month

During the month of June, the **Scleroderma Foundation**, the **Scleroderma Research Foundation** and the **Scleroderma Society of Canada** will combine marketing efforts to boost awareness and spark compassion.

This year marks the agencies' third consecutive annual campaign effort under the name "**Hard word. Harder disease.**" Together, they've grown the scleroderma network and increased online buzz and engagement. The campaign theme touches on the difficulty of the word and the gravity of scleroderma, a rare disease with no known cause or cure. It will run across partner Facebook and Twitter channels (#hardword) throughout the month of June, with visuals and copy that educate and challenge people to take a pledge to tell one person about the disease.

The campaign includes blogger outreach in North America and a microsite, www.HardWord.org, with general information about and links to additional resources. New this year is a virtual flash mob through Thunderclap. The partners and supporters worldwide will use the social media tool to share a campaign message at the same time across Facebook and Twitter. On June 29, **World Scleroderma Day**, the message will encourage people to learn about scleroderma and tell others about the disease.



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Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC Chapter

carole.bernard@comcast.net

