

Alzheimer's walk raises over \$160K for statewide charity

BY MATTHEW SALVATORE

THE OCEAN STAR

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — A two-mile course, 3,000-plus feet on the ground and a dedicated group of 1,500 participants added up to a whopping \$164,000 donated to Alzheimer's New Jersey.

However, donations are still being collected through the end of the year for the 2018 walk total.

"Our first Alzheimer's New Jersey Walk this season raised \$164,794.88 and donations are still coming in," said Terese Kelly Grier, media contact for Alzheimer's New Jersey.

More than 1,500 people participated in the Sept. 22 walk, not including the furry friends that were also in attendance for celebrations before and after the walk.

The chief executive officer [CEO] of Alzheimer's New Jersey said that he was ecstatic with the turnout for the event.

"We were thrilled with the outcome of our Southern Regional Walk in Point Pleasant Beach. It was a beautiful day made even more so by the huge crowd that joined Alzheimer's New Jersey in our local mission to support NJ families," said Ken Zaentz, President and CEO.

"It was great to see walkers

and teams who continue to come back year after year as well as new faces. This walk is not only about raising money but about people connecting with each other and realizing that they are not alone in the fight against Alzheimer's disease."

According to Ms. Grier, it is the welcoming nature and amenities of Point Pleasant Beach that make it perfect for the walk, which raises funds to help those affected by Alzheimer's and dementia in New Jersey.

"People love coming to the Point Pleasant Beach walk because it's the last visit of the summer season to enjoy the beautiful boardwalk and the amenities of the town — rides and games, great shops and restaurants. In addition, the town and the community overall are so supportive of us," she said.

"We would not be able to have the walk without their help and support," Ms. Grier added.

As the years go by and the walk becomes more and more of a tradition in Point Pleasant Beach, the community that takes part together also grows and for Ms. Grier, that is one of the best parts about the walk.

"The best feature of this event year after year is always the walkers who partic-

ipate to honor or remember a loved one. They continue to come back and connect with each other — the feeling of extended family. It is a local event for a very local cause in supporting New Jersey families," she said.

Another piece of the puzzle that comes together to make the event a success is the participation of local students.

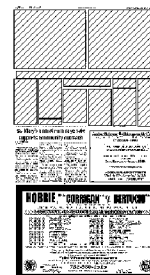
"We also have great participation from so many of the local high school students whose energy and enthusiasm adds to the atmosphere," Ms. Grier said.

Funds are still being raised now that the walk is over, according to the Alzheimer's New Jersey website.

"Although the walk is over, we hope that you'll continue to spread the word about Alzheimer's New Jersey and our work to support New Jersey families impacted by Alzheimer's disease," the website reads.

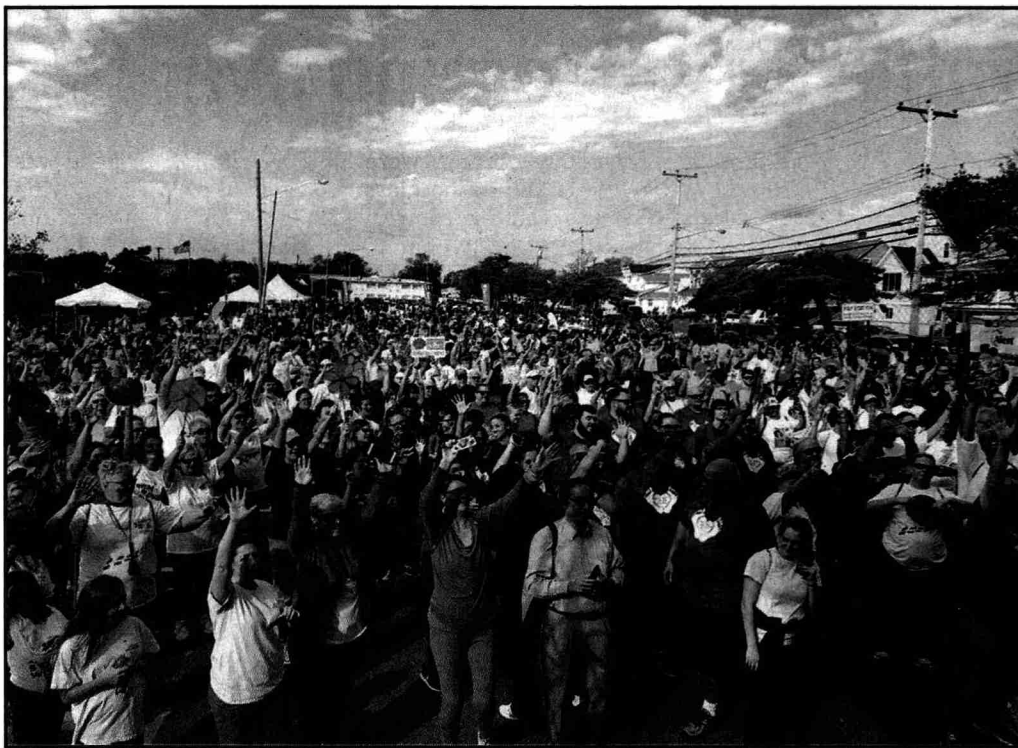
Fundraising will continue until Nov. 30 in order to be eligible for the Alzheimer's New Jersey incentive program and other donations will count toward the 2018 walk total up until the new year.

Donations can be made online or mailed to 425 Eagle Rock Ave., Suite 203, Roseland, NJ 07068.



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TERESE KELLY GRIER Alzheimer's New Jersey



COURTESY OF ALZHEIMER'S NEW JERSEY

More than 1,500 people flocked to Point Pleasant Beach to raise funds and awareness for Alzheimer's New Jersey, a nonprofit that helps those affected by the disease within the state.



COURTESY OF ALZHEIMER'S NEW JERSEY

Team Poppy's Fighters came out in force to the charity walk each of them in matching shirts with the names of those they were walking for written on the white feet that adorned their shirt.