



National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society  
Greater Illinois  
Chapter

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THOUSANDS OF ILLINOISANS TO PARTICIPATE IN  
25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WALK MS, SUNDAY, MAY 5**

**CHICAGO—Feb. 14, 2013—** On Sunday, May 5, thousands of walkers, volunteers and staff will participate in [Walk MS 2013](#) events simultaneously taking place at 11 locations statewide, including Bloomington, Chicago Lakefront, Glenview, Joliet/Lockport, Lake in the Hills, Naperville, Orland Park, Palatine, Rockford, Springfield and St. Charles. The combined Illinois Walk MS events, which are among the largest in the nation, raise money in a national movement to bring an end to multiple sclerosis.

“For many people living with MS, this is one of the best and most important days of the year,” said John Blazek, Greater Illinois Chapter President. “Whether it’s through participating at one of our Walk sites, volunteering, fundraising or recruiting a friend or family member to be part of the movement, the amazing turnout of thousands of supporters for this signature event helps bring us that much closer to our ultimate goal of a world free of MS.”

Walk MS, celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, is the rallying point of the MS movement; a chance for community to come together to bring an end to multiple sclerosis. Last year, more than 12,000 individuals across Illinois participated in Walk MS, raising \$2.73 million.

Registration for Walk MS is free, and participants—including individual walkers, teams, volunteers and virtual walkers—are encouraged to fundraise. For more information, visit [walkMSillinois.org](http://walkMSillinois.org). Two additional walks are scheduled in Peoria and Urbana on Sunday, Sept. 8.

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The National MS Society addresses the challenges of each person affected by MS. To fulfill this mission, the Society funds cutting-edge research, drives change through advocacy, facilitates professional education, collaborates with MS organizations around the world, and provides programs and services designed to help people with MS and their families move forward with their lives.

**The disease affects more than 20,000 people in Illinois** and 2.1 million worldwide. For more information, visit [MSillinois.org](http://MSillinois.org).

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