

# Another Successful Walk Day

by Ellen Swercewski

October 7, 2017 turned out to be a beautiful day, and the walkers and volunteers were very thankful for a “no rain” walk day!



I am a 12-year founding member and volunteer with TBBCF. I have had the privilege of being Walk Chair for seven years, Procurement, Massage, and Spirit Team lead throughout the years. I also assist with the TBBCF website and am the social media coordinator. While I have never walked any of the marathons (maybe one day I could at least walk the quarter marathon), I am always in awe of those who do walk.

Each year, I am emotionally moved by the people who train and walk full, half and quarter marathons. Each walker has a reason for walking, whether it's for a loved one who is struggling with breast cancer, or in memory of someone who has died from this dreadful disease or because s/he wants to ensure that our children and grandchildren do not have to live in a world where we lose anyone to breast cancer. Whatever the reasons, TBBCF will be able to provide grants to a few more scientists who are searching to find a cure, and that's the ultimate thank you.

The Walk Team kept very busy from May through October preparing for the Walk ... requests for sponsorships; in-kind donations for food, hydration, music, radios, speakers, balloon arch, tables, chairs; coordinating pit stop locations and porta potties (pit stop team's Amy and Sandy with Rodney from United Site Services pictured right), recruiting volunteers, permits from towns and approval by the state and coordinating and supporting training walks. Sometimes everything goes smoothly, and sometimes there are bumps in the road.



This year the Walk team was faced with a bump in the road by having to reroute a portion of the walk, since a section of Jordan Cove would not be available for car or pedestrian traffic at the time of the walk.

The Walk Chairs, along with members of the team, pulled together and determined a way to reroute the walk which involved a revised permit to the town, approval by the state, assistance from the Waterford Police Department and reassigning spirit teams and one pit stop. Bump in the road fixed! This team worked so hard to ensure the logistics of this Walk would come off without a hitch. They are the core of this Walk,



Walk day opened at Saybrook Point Marina with an inspiring and heartfelt speech from Ashley Brodeur. Click [here](#) for the video. **Ashley** is pictured on the right in a photo with (l-r) her siblings, Melanie and Sean. Marcie Brensilver provided important walk route information and feet were on the pavement at 7:00 a.m. The day ended at Camp Harkness, Waterford with our main speaker, Kevin Hogan, WFSB-TV channel 3. Thank you to Kevin for taking time from his busy schedule to be with us.

And what happened in between opening and closing ceremonies?

Cyclists and traffic and safety people keep walkers safe; pit stop and hydration people set up the pit stops and provide the hydration and food; volunteers staff the pit stops and cheer on the walkers; medical personnel are at each pit stop to take care of any injuries, bee bites or blisters; the sweep vehicle traverses the route available to bring walkers to the next pit stop, if needed; spirit team volunteers cheer walkers along and the massage therapists provide relief to walkers at the end of the walk.

# Our Volunteer Teams Make It Happen!



OS Girl Scouts



OS Police - Hydration



Medical Staff



Traffic and Safety



Sweep Vehicle



Pit Stop Team



Hydration - Setup



Cycle Team



Spirit Team



Registration Team



Opening, Lunch, Closing



Police Traffic-Safety



Announcers



Registration - Pit Stops



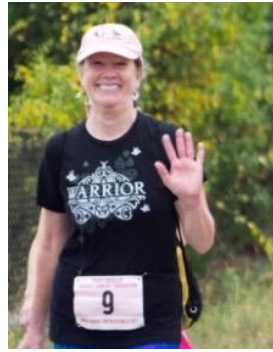
Registration - Walk Chair



Massage

You inspire them to continue, even though they are tired and their feet hurt. You know they want to reach that finish line and you motivate them to get there. I know you lead very busy lives, and lots of demands are made on your time, so I, personally, appreciate the fact that you choose to support the fundraising efforts of TBBCF!

We hear many stories from women and men who say this is an experience they will never forget, and that it is an emotional experience when they round the bend toward Camp Harkness and see the pink flags and balloon arch finish line and hear people cheer them on.



Some years it rains, and the walkers come through, wet, tired and many with terrible blisters, but they did it. Their commitment and hard work walking in this event inspire me. And the bravery and courage of all who are struggling and fighting hard to overcome this disease should inspire us all.





TBBCF's goal is to ensure they don't have a job in the future. They don't want to have to provide walks to find a cure for breast cancer. They want a future free of breast cancer, as we all do, and they are making strides to that end.