



First Ever Oregon Walk4Hearing a Big Success

What a rewarding time we had at the September 17th Walk4Hearing! Approximately 150 friends of the Hearing Loss Association made the First Ever Oregon Walk4Hearing a smashing success. Our goal for this first Walk was to raise awareness of hearing loss AND at least \$25,000. Donations are continuing to come in, but as of press time we have raised more than \$27,000!!

This money will be used to support Hearing Loss Association in a variety of ways including advocating for captioning of live theater productions, support for kids with hearing loss, outreach to veterans returning with hearing loss, educating people with hearing loss about coping strategies, hearing assistive technology, publishing our award winning state newsletter, and social networking for young adults.

We were pleased to have Governor Kitzhaber declare our Walk Day as Walk4Hearing Day in Oregon. He also encouraged all Oregonians to join in this observation.

Several prizes were given at the Walk including a \$200 Morton Steakhouse certificate to Mark Foster's first place team (Foster Footsers), a Nike Employee Store certificate to Cathy Sander's second place team (CatWalks), an Old Spaghetti Factory Certificate to Karen Swezey's third place team (Karen's Family & Friends), Dutch Brothers Coffee certificates, an iPod Touch from Clear Captions, and other fun prizes.

We thank our wonderful sponsors: **Platinum Sponsor** (\$5000) OHSU Department of Otolaryngology; **Silver Sponsor** (\$2500) Earcher Captioning, Portland General Electric; **Kickoff Event Sponsors** (\$1500) LNS Captioning, OTRS Sprint, ODS; **Supporting Sponsor** (\$500) Comcast; **Friends** (\$250) Wilson Ear Clinic & Portland Ear Testing Center, Amedisys Home Health Care; **Kilometer Markers** (\$100) Cathy Sanders, Peter LeBray.

A big THANK YOU goes to those who organized and conducted this very successful Walk. Cathy Sanders and Kathy Eckert-Mason dedicated many hours as co-Chairs.

And thank you to the many volunteers who helped with registration, entertainment, the planning team and other areas to make the day extra special. And most of all, THANK YOU to everyone who helped raise money to help us reach our goal. Every dollar will be put to good use helping people with hearing loss.

Photo: W4H co-chair Cathy Sanders and David Viers go for a stroll. Other W4H photos will be posted to the HLA-OR website at <http://www.hearinglossor.org/>

