

Walk to End Alzheimer's Celebrate Alzheimer's awareness

By KAITLYN WILKES

This year's Walk to End Alzheimer's for Williamson County will take place on Saturday, October 18, starting at Southwestern University. The walk begins at 9:30 a.m., with the site opening at 8 a.m. The walk will be around the Southwestern campus and is about a mile long.

Promotion for the event and a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association took place at The Hacienda at Georgetown during the afternoon of August 15. There were information booths, food and drinks, a photo booth, a dunk tank, face painting and line dancing. The Hacienda raised over \$6,000 for Alzheimer's research during the event.

"When anyone is given a scary diagnosis, it's isolating," said Shannon Eller, development manager at the Capital of Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. "This walk shows you're not alone."

Those interested in participating in the



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Hacienda staff members pose with a resident at the photo booth, sporting the color for Alzheimer's awareness: purple.

walk in October can register at <https://tinyurl.com/2uffzmwf>. All participants and teams must register, but there is no fee for registration. As of August 20, there were 220 participants and 50 teams. Last year, there were about 611 participants, according to Ms. Eller.

Registered participants who fundraise a minimum of \$100 will receive an official Walk to End Alzheimer's t-shirt via USPS. The money must be raised at least four weeks prior to the event. Ms. Eller said the fundraising goal for this year across Central Texas is \$850,000, which is

up from last year's contributions of \$730,000 across the region.

According to Ms. Eller, these funds get put back into the community, help fund the 24/7 helpline from the Alzheimer's Association and fund lobbying to the state and federal government.



Cametha Longino, center, dances to "Boots on the Ground" with other Hacienda staff members. Ms. Longino also works as the main cook for the memory care center.



Penny Jordon gets her face painted as part of the festivities at The Hacienda at Georgetown Walk for Alzheimer's kick-off event.