



Voices from the 2024 Walk for Talk

We asked our Dysphonia International Support Network Leadership Facebook Group WHY and HOW our leaders plan to participate in the 2024 Walk for Talk. Here are the responses:

Mary Bifaro: "I am hosting a Team Charlotte event on 10/19/24. I participate each October in WFT because I want Dysphonia International to succeed in raising awareness and funds for voice disorder research. #wft"

Risa Clay: "I am hosting an event in Tinton Falls NJ! The walk is empowering and it's our opportunity to do something to improve our situation."

Becky Lacroix: "I'm in talks to have a dinner/silent auction at The Bala Bay Inn!! Fingers crossed!!"

Esther Zack: "I'm working along with three amazing Speech Language Pathologists to make the public aware of voice disorders. We are so blessed."

An article was placed about the Team Toni 2024 Walk for Talk event. Here are three quotes from it:

Kim Kuman: "Dysphonia International is dedicated to improving the lives of people with spasmodic dysphonia and related voice conditions through research. We fund research grants, we do education and awareness, and we also provide support."

Dr. Johns: "Voice disorders, in general, are very impairing to people because the voice is the primary way that we communicate. This affects people in all domains of their life."

Toni Gold: "I have lived with SD for decades. I was lucky enough to have been living in Los Angeles where there are doctors familiar with the condition. Oftentimes, it takes individuals years and handful of specialists to get a diagnosis."

We asked our Support Network Leaders for the reasons for participating. Here are some of the responses:

Marianne Meyers: "As a widow, I must speak for myself. All of us with neurological voice conditions are tired. We want answers, treatments, and a cure. Now in its 5th year, Walk for Talk gives us the chance to be proactive and bring awareness out in the community. Great strides are being made in research. Let's keep this momentum going."

Mary Bifaro: "I Walk for Talk each October with my support group community, family and friends. I want to do my part on behalf of Dysphonia International to raise awareness and funds for voice research. Together, we step forward in our pursuit of finding a cure for SD and related voice conditions. I enjoy the unity, empowerment and joy as we celebrate the strength of our community and our collective voice through Walk for Talk." #wft

Cathleen McCulloch: "I don't walk just for me but for all of us battling to be heard. I walk to take back what dysphonia has taken from me. I walk to raise awareness, so individuals don't have to jump from doctor to doctor and go through grueling tests to find answers for their voice loss. I walk for a cure so we can break the isolation barrier. I walk to support each one of you, that have not been just support but have become friends and family to me."

Sue Payne: "I walk to continue to raise awareness for all of us. I walk to be heard. With a united voice, we speak volumes."

Esther Zack: "I truly believe that we are getting closer to a cure. I walk each year to raise awareness and funds so we can support those amazing scientists to help them find it!"