



**Thousands of volunteers will walk hundreds of miles in more than 25 U.S. cities to raise awareness and funds to *Ease the Burden – Find the Cure* for Parkinson’s disease**

**New York, NY, March 10, 2014** – Volunteers will collectively walk hundreds of miles this year to raise awareness of Parkinson’s disease and funds to support the American Parkinson Disease Association’s (APDA) mission to *Ease the Burden – Find the Cure*. The 2014 Optimism Walk campaign is open for registration and will take place in more than 25 locations including, [Boston](#), [New York City](#), [Seattle](#), [Las Vegas](#), [San Antonio](#), [Madison](#), [Chicago](#), [Omaha](#), [Hartford](#), [Nashville](#), [Virginia Beach](#), [Rhode Island](#), [South Florida](#) and dozens of others throughout the United States.

APDA has raised more than \$80 million to date to support scientific research and provide support and education for the 1.5 million Americans diagnosed with the progressive, degenerative neurological disease that currently has no cure.

“Every year thousands of friends, families, and individuals coping with Parkinson’s disease take to local pathways and parks with a passion to find a cure and help end the devastation of Parkinson’s disease. The lifesaving funds raised through the walks will support scientific research, as well as Parkinson’s patients and caregivers through the APDA information & Referral Center and Chapter network,” said APDA President & CEO Leslie A. Chambers. “It is important to remember that we are closer than ever before to finding a cure for Parkinson’s and every effort counts in this battle.”

In 2013, the Optimism Walk campaign drew thousands of participants and raised almost three-quarter of a million dollars to fund critical research and patient services. The goal for this year’s Optimism Walk campaign is to top \$1 million.

“APDA’s Optimism Walk campaign runs from April through October and is a great way for both Parkinson’s patients and the general community to go out for a day of fun, and exercise, while spreading awareness,” Chambers said. **To find an Optimism Walk in your area, visit [www.optimism4parkinsons.org](http://www.optimism4parkinsons.org) or [www.apdaparkinson.org](http://www.apdaparkinson.org).**

**Contact**

Charlene Allo | 1-800-223-2723 | [CAllo@apdaparkinson.org](mailto:CAllo@apdaparkinson.org) | [www.apdaparkinson.org](http://www.apdaparkinson.org)

The **American Parkinson Disease Association**, Inc. (APDA) was founded in 1961 to *Ease the Burden - Find the Cure* for Parkinson's disease. Headquartered in New York, the organization focuses its energies on research, patient services, education and raising public awareness about the disease. APDA supports eight Centers for Advanced Research, regional Information and Referral (I&R) Centers, chapters throughout the country, and support groups nationwide. Each year, APDA’s Scientific Advisory Board reviews grant applications, and submits recommendations to fund researchers whose work shows promise for making scientific breakthroughs or for finding improved treatments for Parkinson's disease. APDA has raised and awarded more than \$80 million to fund research and patient services and has been a funding partner in most major PD scientific discoveries.