

Alzheimer's walk in Huntington Beach raises \$70,000 for Orange County charity



Lawren and Judy Rittenhouse participate in the Walk4ALZ fundraiser for Alzheimer's Orange County in Huntington Beach, Saturday, Oct. 28. (Photo courtesy Alzheimer's Orange County)

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The annual Walk4ALZ Orange County, held Saturday, Oct. 28 in Huntington Beach, drew 1,400 participants and raised about \$70,000 for Alzheimer's Orange County.

Unlike the larger national Alzheimer's walks staged locally in recent weeks, all the funds raised from Walk4ALZ stay in Orange County, to help the thousands of local residents who are currently affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia, organizers said.

The Huntington Beach walk was the second of three locally sponsored events. Last year, more than 12,000 people participated in the three walks that raised over \$500,000 that went toward critical support and services.

The next walk is at Angel Stadium of Anaheim on Saturday, Nov. 11.

"Our walks send a resounding message to the community that we will do everything in our power to fight Alzheimer's, whether it is working on the front lines to provide help to those currently facing the disease, or rallying to raise awareness," said Alzheimer's Orange County CEO and president Jim McAleer in a statement.

According to McAleer, more than 84,000 Orange County residents live with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, and that number is projected to more than triple by 2025.

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Greg Mellen is a veteran award-winning reporter with more than 30 years experience at papers in California and Missouri. He joined the Register newspapers with the Long Beach Register and now primarily covers Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley. He received his master's degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism and was a faculty member and sports editor at the Columbia Missourian. In his free time he likes to read and dabble in fiction writing, which he tries to keep out of the newspaper.

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