

2008 Pierce County AIDS Walk Fact Sheet

Date:

Saturday, September 6, 2008

Location:

The walk starts and ends at the University of Washington Tacoma Campus, and goes through downtown Tacoma right past the Pierce County AIDS Foundation's office, down Dock Street to the Esplanade, and over the Chihuly Bridge of Glass.

Day of the Walk Schedule:

9:00 a.m.	Check-in and Registration
10:00 a.m.	Opening Ceremony
10:30 a.m.	AIDS Walk begins
11:30 a.m.	Post-Walk lunch, music and presentation of awards

History:

Produced by the Pierce County AIDS Foundation (PCAF), the Walk's guiding purpose is to raise money to provide care services for people living with HIV/ AIDS and to promote HIV/ AIDS education to prevent the spread of the disease. The Walk began in 1992, and participation in the event has grown steadily ever since. Accounting for over 5% of PCAF's total budget, the Walk continues to make a big impact in the lives of many in Pierce County. The fundraising goal of this year's Walk is to exceed \$130,000.

AIDSWALKdirect! Community Grant:

The Pierce County AIDS Foundation is seeking to support leadership and collaboration among organizations to promote primary or secondary prevention education, awareness, and/or care services within Pierce County communities. The award amount will be 50% of the total gift pledges received from agency/organization walk teams at the AIDS Walk. Only collected pledges received by the day of the walk, Saturday, September 6, 2008, will count towards the award amount.

Who Benefits:

- **People who are living with HIV/ AIDS...**benefit from the programs and organizations funded by the Pierce County AIDS Walk. PCAF's client assistance programs include emergency grants, essential needs supplies, case management, housing assistance, and mental health counseling to help cope with the changes that HIV/ AIDS causes in the lives of those infected and affected by the disease.
- **People who are at increased risk of HIV infection...**benefit from peer education programs supported by Walk funds. These education programs help at-risk populations learn the skills they need to avoid HIV infection. Peer education programs targeting youth, women, people of color, and gay and bisexual men are offered at PCAF.
- **The community at large...**benefits through increased awareness of HIV/ AIDS and increased understanding that HIV/ AIDS is a global epidemic, affecting people of all ages, genders, and races.

Every care has been taken to assure the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of Walk participants. The Water Stop is a halfway point rest area complete with water, fruit, bathrooms, and volunteers supplied with words of encouragement and bandages for blisters. The route itself is monitored by trained volunteers who are in communication with Walk headquarters at all times, and two vehicles on the course are available for walkers who need a ride back to the University.