



For Immediate Release

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LOCAL NON-PROFIT PARTNERS WITH BANNER HEALTH ON WALK TO HELP PARKINSON'S PATIENTS Phoenix-Metro Area Residents

(July 21, 2015) – To help *Ease the Burden, Find the Cure* for Parkinson's disease, the Arizona Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, in partnership with Banner Thunderbird Medical Center –Rehabilitation Services, is conducting its 4th Annual Optimism Run/Walk for Parkinson's disease on October 10, 2015. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and funds for local education and support services for individuals and families affected by a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

The event will start and finish (rain or shine) on the Midwestern University Campus in Glendale, Arizona. Registration starts at 8:15AM, warm-up at 9:30AM, shot-gun start at 10AM, and brunch to follow. Route options are designed for all fitness levels including a 5K timed race, 5K walk, and 1-mile fun walk. Awards will be presented to race winners and top fundraisers. The family-friendly atmosphere will include activities for children and live music.

Show your support by registering or making a donation online at azoptimism.org or by calling 602-361-5340. Entry fees range from \$15-\$35 and include an Optimism t-shirt. Register by September 20th for a \$5 discount. Teams of 10 or more also receive a special discount; contact event coordinators for more information.

Optimism Events are taking place in approximately 25 cities nationwide, with the goal of raising more than one million dollars to support the American Parkinson Disease Association. Parkinson's disease affects more than one million people in the United States and 35,000 in Arizona alone.

The American Parkinson Disease Association is one of the largest grassroots organizations dedicated to fighting Parkinson's disease by focusing on research, patient and caregiver support, education, and increasing public awareness through a network of chapters and more than 1,000 support groups nationwide.

Banner Health is the leading non-profit provider of health care in Arizona and was recognized by Thomas Reuters as a Top 5 Health System. Banner is deeply committed to its mission of *making a difference in people's lives through excellent patient care*. The Rehabilitation Services at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient programs, including dedicated rehabilitation programs for Parkinson's disease as well as a nationally-awarded aquatic therapy program.