



Dear Fellow CHD Supporter,

We have begun preparing for the CHD Coalition's 16th annual CHD Awareness Walk! We are excited for this year's event taking place at Overpeck County Park in Leonia, NJ on **Sunday, September 17, 2023**. For individuals who are unable to attend in person, we encourage participation virtually. You can still register your team, walk with your family and friends, and unite together to celebrate our CHD Warriors and Angels. The **CHD Walk for Hope** will be streamed live to our Facebook page on the day of the event.

The CHD Walk for Hope is our biggest fundraiser of the year and enables the CHD Coalition to continue several impactful initiatives. We need your support!

- ♥ **Research.** Over \$1 Million has been awarded to date for the advancement of CHD research! This would not have been possible without amazing supporters like yourself. As a result of innovative medical technologies and improved treatment, individuals with congenital heart defects are living longer and healthier lives. Unfortunately, most causes of CHDs are still unknown, and additional research studies are critically important.
- ♥ **Hospital Outreach.** Over 500 care packages (aka "Heart Totes") are delivered each year to the 8 children's surgical hospitals in Northern NJ and NY City. The Heart Tote contains numerous items designed to ease a family's hospital stay, but most importantly, they deliver the message that the family is not alone and that there is hope.
- ♥ **Scholarships.** Scholarships are awarded each year to CHD Survivors graduating high school and who are continuing their education. Over \$50,000 has been granted since the program was started.
- ♥ **Community.** The CHD Coalition hosts several Heart Family social events free for CHD Warrior and immediate family members. These gatherings allow the parents to receive peer-to-peer support in a relaxing environment while their children play and interact with other CHD Survivors.

**Registration is open at [chdcoalition.org/walk](http://chdcoalition.org/walk). There will be no onsite registration.** All participants need to register online before 12:00pm noon Saturday, September 16 to be able to attend. Every participant must be registered as a signed waiver is required. Wrist bands will be distributed and are required to participate in all post-walk activities.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at (973) 850-6320, or via email at [info@chdcoalition.org](mailto:info@chdcoalition.org). Thank you for your support! We are looking forward to seeing you!

From the Heart,

*Mickey Wilder RN, BSN, CPN*

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President