

# Power of Community



BY ANN RANCOURT

Throughout another year of uncertainty, the dedication of this community kept the Walk4Hearing strong. The commitment of our volunteers, walkers, teams, supporters and partners paved the way for exciting Walk Days—celebrating virtually in the spring and reuniting in person this fall.

With the support of 4,700 walkers, 550 team captains, 200 alliances, 60 HLAA Chapters and State Organizations and 250 volunteers, Walk4Hearing raised awareness for hearing health in 19 cities across the country. Whether they were online or in-person, participants showed up to celebrate with creative team t-shirts and colorful signs ready to display their Walk spirit. Our community came through, raising more than \$1 million dollars to provide people the tools and resources to live well with hearing loss.

## Walk4Hearing Weekend

Our spring Walks joined forces for a star-studded Walk4Hearing Weekend on June 12-13. Over two days, we gathered online then walked with friends and teammates in our own neighborhoods. Special guests included comedian D.J. Demers and inspirational singer Mandy Harvey, both of whom are hearing loss advocates. We were also joined by kids from No Limits for Deaf Children for a special national anthem performance.

After their celebration in the Bay Area, company team 23andHear organized a 5K walk at their headquarters and raised an impressive \$2,588! To encourage safety and to educate employees about communication access, the team wore clear masks to bring more awareness to lipreading.

In the country music capital of the world, team Amelia Aid Charms raised \$1,070 and gathered 35 of her teammates at a park in Nashville, Tennessee. Team Captain Amelia and her friends created signs to hold while they walked around town raising awareness for hearing health. Afterward, they enjoyed delicious cookies!



23andHear teammates walked after the Bay Area celebration at their headquarters where they hosted a 5K Walk for their employees.



Team Amelia Aid Charms created signs to display proudly while walking in their neighborhood to raise awareness.





## Reuniting the Community

As fall rolled around, Walk4Hearing eagerly reunited for in-person events. Seeing old friends and connecting in person brought a renewed sense of excitement! Throughout the fall season, several people were acknowledged for their contributions to the community and for advancing HLAA's mission.

NYC Walk4Hearing kicked off the fall season with 400 people in attendance at Riverside Park. During the opening ceremony, a long-time participant, Nikki Kramer was named NYC Walk4Hearing Ambassador. Since 2013, Nikki and her team generated more than \$34,000 in support of HLAA.

In the City of Brotherly Love, Kierstyn "Kiki" Kuehnle, an incredible hearing health advocate, was recognized for raising \$170,000 since 2015. Her success comes from her strong community outreach, speaking engagements and bake sales. Team Kiki raises funds for HLAA and Ocean City ASL Club which welcomed Nyle DiMarco, deaf activist and model, to speak at her school. Kiki has also supported Ocean City Tabernacle to provide closed captioning for church services and events.

At New Jersey Walk4Hearing, HLAA New Jersey State Association was presented with a proclamation for spearheading the effort to require induction loop assistive listening systems in public spaces to address the need for communication access. At Washington DC Walk,



*Kierstyn "Kiki" Kuehnle, seen here with Walk4Hearing Senior Manager Ronnie Adler, was recognized at the Pennsylvania Walk.*

HLAA-DC President Judy Alden was honored for her unwavering dedication to the creation of the Office of Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing in the District of Columbia.

2022 Walk4Hearing is just around the corner and HLAA is excited to welcome back our spring participants in person! Learn more and register at [walk4hearing.org](https://walk4hearing.org). **HL**

*Ann Rancourt is the Walk4Hearing manager. She can be reached at [arancourt@hearingloss.org](mailto:arancourt@hearingloss.org).*

# 2022 HLAA Hear for Life Partners

## Leaders



Hear better. Live better.

## Champions



## Advocates



We want to recognize all our inaugural Hear for Life partners including CTIA, Sensorion and Otonomy.

# 2022 Walk4Hearing Spring Schedule

May 15 Westchester/Rockland

May 21 Michigan  
Milwaukee

June 4 Bay Area  
Nashville

June 5 Long Beach

June 11 Connecticut

June 25 Florida **\*NEW**

Visit [walk4hearing.org](http://walk4hearing.org) for Walk4Hearing's fall schedule.



Take the first step, today! Contact Walk4Hearing Senior Manager Ronnie Adler, [radler@hearingloss.org](mailto:radler@hearingloss.org), or Walk4Hearing Manager Ann Rancourt, [arancourt@hearingloss.org](mailto:arancourt@hearingloss.org).

Arizona Walk4Hearing

