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Epilepsy Foundation of the Chesapeake Region Raises 3 times Their Goal for the National Walk for Epilepsy in Washington!

Silver Spring, MD, April 7, 2009- On March 28th, 2009 the Abilities Network/ Epilepsy Foundation of the Chesapeake Region (EFCR) in Silver Spring walked among the thousands of others on the National Mall to raise money and awareness for epilepsy. The 22 participants that walked on the EFCR team set their team goal at \$500.00 and ended up raising \$1,690.00 for the Epilepsy Foundation!

The 3rd annual National Walk for Epilepsy was hosted by the Epilepsy Foundation, with financial support from Ortho-McNeil Neurologics®, Division of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The walk was attended by over 9,000 people, including sports heroes and well-known celebrities. The Pre-Walk rally began at 8:45 and was chaired by Greg Grunberg, an actor from the hit T.V. series *Heroes*, in support of his son Jake who has epilepsy. The proceeds from the event will support programs that serve people with epilepsy and assist in the search for the cure.

A change this year, was the Educate, Empower, and Encourage exhibit located on the National Mall with information pertaining to topics of importance to people affected by epilepsy. Participants were able to view these exhibits after the walk and also given the chance to speak with experts in the field of neurology.

In addition, the Grammy award winning artist Gladys Knight preformed a special concert benefitting the Epilepsy Foundation at D.A.R. Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Nick Heynen, a Program Director at Abilities Network/ EFCR describes his experience at the walk; "It is inspiring to see all the things that we can do together, that we don't stand a chance of doing on our own. It's great to see so many people coming together for such a great cause."

For additional information on the National Walk for Epilepsy, please contact Lauren Dunn at 410-828-7700 ext. 1229, or e-mail ldunn@abilitiesnetwork.org.

Abilities Network/ EFCR is a non-profit organization that provides individualized services to children and adults, as well as their families of differing abilities that focus on one-on-one supports to foster broadened, more inclusive communities through education, training, and advocacy. For more information about Abilities Network/ EFCR, please visit our website at www.abilitiesnetwork.org.

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