

# SBH *Insigh*ter

## Alzheimer's Walk a Success!

The May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Alzheimer's Walk in Pittsburg, KS was a smashing success! The main goal of the event was to raise donation dollars toward assisting Southeast Kansas families in caring for loved ones coping with Alzheimer's disease. Last Year's record donation totaled \$19,000. That achievement was significantly outdone with this year's contributions reaching the \$25,000 mark. What a community effort! Individuals and area businesses donated 70+ items/ gift certificates for the silent auction and raffle. Girard Medical Center, through t-shirt sales and solicitation of individual donors and businesses, collected over \$3,000 in cash and a little over \$1,000 worth of items / gift certificates. Media facilitated several print stories and radio interviews educating readers and listeners about the challenges brought on by Alzheimer's. Several volunteers from the community joined with the planning committee, led by Suzie Sexton of Sunset Manor and Lynette Emmerson of Fort Scott Manor, to effectively organize and execute this extremely successful fundraising event supporting the Alzheimer's Association. Suzie related, "This would not have been possible without the amazing



*Suzie Sexton on right*

committee members and the wonderful sponsors that support this cause year after year. They all should give themselves a well earned pat on the back!"



*Lynette Emmerson on right*

Lynette added, "It's wonderful how our planning committee continues to grow allowing us to collect more silent auction items and sponsors!"



*"...the amazing committee members and the wonderful sponsors that support this cause year after year should give themselves a well earned pat on the back!"*

# THE TIME IS NOW!



The three Pacesetter Sponsors (donating \$750+) included Sunset Manor, Girard Medical Center and Prairie Mission Retirement Village. Those serving as Forget-Me-Not Sponsors (donating \$500+) included Fort Scott Manor, John and Sara Keller, Comfort Care Homes, Mariner Wealth Advisors, Southern Care Hospice, Golden Living Pittsburg, Via Christi Village, Hospice Care of Kansas, The Heritage, Freddy's Frozen Custard, and My Country 101.7 FM. Remembrance Sponsors (donating \$250+) included Kurt Loy, Girard National Bank, Via Christi Hospital, and Senior Care RX.

Along with a balloon release recognizing those that have succumbed to Alzheimer's, blue, purple and yellow nylon pinwheel flowers (see photo on left) were distributed to Walk participants representing varying connections people have with the fight to end Alzheimer's.

- Blue: *I have Alzheimer's.*
- Purple: *I have lost someone to Alzheimer's.*
- Yellow: *I am supporting the cause and a vision of a world without Alzheimer's.*



While hundreds of participants enjoyed hotdogs, chips, soda and free frozen yogurt, My Country 101.7 DJ, Dalton Windsor, entertained, educated, and introduced speakers throughout the event. Those who spoke shared their stories about their own or loved ones' battle with Alzheimer's--poignant reminders to live in the here and now while cherishing those walking beside you. There were also messages of hope that one day there would exist preventative and/or curative medical interventions eliminating the need for any more Alzheimer's Walks!

Would you like to donate to this great cause? Go online to [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or send a check to:

Alzheimer's Association  
PO Box 96011  
Washington, DC 20090-6011



**Girard Medical Center Senior Behavioral Health Services**

**FREE** Memory/Depression Screenings on the last Wednesday of each month - 1:00-3:00 pm **620-724-7288**