



Everywhere you turn these days, corporations and individuals are challenged to find ways to work smarter, and more efficiently. At JDRF we're faced with the same challenges, yet the urgency to cure diabetes has never been greater.

We've spent a considerable amount of time evaluating the Walk to Cure Diabetes program here in our chapter. Over the last 3 years, total Walk dollars are down over \$250,000. Although we understand that some of that may be due to the economy, it is a trend that must be reversed.

We have met with the Lakeshore Walk Committee and Walkers representing family and corporate teams to discuss several options for moving forward with the Walks. The overwhelming consensus of those meetings is that we consolidate the Grand Rapids and Lakeshore Walks, to form the Great Lakes West Walk which will allow all efforts to be focused on one Walk site, making it a bigger and better experience for all that attend, while remaining focused on our goal to fund research at the highest levels possible.

The Lakeshore and Grand Rapids Committees have combined and are working to make this a wonderful event for the 2000+ Walkers; offering more kids activities, entertainment and discounts around town the day of the Walk. It is our goal to help keep the identity of the Lakeshore Teams so we will be providing a special tent for the Walk Teams to gather, and a way to identify each other. We will keep you updated as we move forward with information on parking, possible hotel discounts, and other exciting changes.

The Committee and Staff are excited about the new opportunities this combined Walk will bring. We look forward to you joining us for the Great Lakes West Walk on September 18, 2010 at Ah-Nab-Awen Park (just in front of the Gerald R. Ford Museum) in downtown Grand Rapids.

Please watch your mail/email for more information on the Family Team Event at Craig's Cruisers and the Kick-Off Luncheon, which will be coming soon.

Sincerely,
Cathy Coury
Executive Director