

**It’s Walk Weekend – #IGWalkforAlz**

*There is still time to register for the virtual walk or donate to fund services for York Region residents impacted by dementia*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – AURORA, ON (May 26, 2022)** – Walk weekend is here.

This year’s IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer’s in support of programs and services for York Region residents impacted by dementia is virtual, with people encouraged to walk their way throughout the month May. The Alzheimer Society of York Region is celebrating the #IWalkforAlz Saturday, May 28.

So far more than **xx** individuals and teams have registered for walk, with some people already participating, including a group that did a group walk from the U.K., Cuba and York Region. Keswick musician and Honorary Family Ryan Ainsworth also participated in the walk this month. Former AS York social worker Angela Owen, who now calls British Columbia home, is doing her event May 30.

There is still time to register. People can visit <https://bit.ly/ASYorkWalk2022> to register and raise funds or they can donate to an individual or team event. All money raised in York Region stays in York Region. Money raised provides programs and services to the more than 17,000 York Region residents living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias and their caregivers.

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**About the Alzheimer Society York Region (AS York):** The Alzheimer Society of York Region is a leader in actively supporting individuals and families living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. Our quality, dementiaspecific DAY program services, enriched social work program and education opportunities are well respected.

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**Interviews:** Ryan Ainsworth and Stefanie D'Argento (team captain of the U.K./Cuba/York Region (Vaughan) walk are available for interviews. Please note, Steafanie is in the U.K. Jaime Cruz, public education coordinator at AS York, can speak about Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias as well as the #IGWalkforAlz . Please contact Pamela Loveless to arrange an interview with both people.

**Pictures and cutlines:**

**WalkingWHope:** Stefanie D'Argento, who is currently teaching in the U.K. for a year, organized Team Walking with Hope in memory of her grandmother, Maria Sergnese, who passed away after a battle with dementia. Stefanie’s team walked in the U.K., Cuba and York Region (Vaughan) all on the same day. https://bit.ly/WalkWHope22

**AngelaOwenFormerASYorkSocialWorker:** AngelaOwen is a former social worker from AS York who moved to British Columbia last year with her family. She is participating in the #IGWalkForAlz more than 4,000 kilometres away because “the York Region chapter of the Alzheimer's Society delivers person-centred care in practice. They are a special bunch of outstanding people who get it. They know what help you need and are committed to providing relevant and accessible resources. This is an agency that really helps people.” https://bit.ly/AngelasWalk22

**RyanAinsworthRebeccaAlanna:** Keswick musician Ryan Ainsworth is this year’s Honorary Family. He his wife Rebecca Fillion and their daughter Alanna walked in support of AS York clients. Prior to COVID-19, Ryan performed at the DAY centres and the in-person walks. <https://bit.ly/RyanAinsworth2022> . Read his story: https://bit.ly/RyanStoryASYork