

THINGS TO DO

Chesterfield Township boy, 4, with kidney disease ready for Kidney Walk

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A local preschooler and his classmates are raising funds for life-changing programs and services offered through the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

Owen Campbell, 4, of Chesterfield Township, suffers from kidney disease. This year's Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo will mark the second year Owen and his family and friends will walk to raise funds for the NKFM. The group will participate as a team called "Owen's Avengers."

Owen's class, led by Cindy Bowman, raised the most funding.

Paraprofessional Jodie Novak also became a living donor in Owen's honor.

The 2018 Kidney Walk will kick off at 8:45 a.m. Sunday at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak.

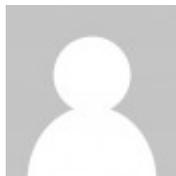
"The community's role in the Kidney Walk, including sponsors, walkers and other supporters, is vital to our ability to provide programs and services to the one in nine Michigan residents who suffer from chronic kidney disease, as well as to help prevent or delay the disease," National Kidney Foundation of Michigan President and CEO Linda Smith-Wheelock said in a release.

As the organization's largest fundraising event, the Kidney Walk aims to draw attention to the importance of early detection and kidney disease prevention while raising funds in support of kidney patients and their families.

More than 900,000 Michigan residents are living with chronic kidney disease, and most are unaware, the organization said. Diabetes and high blood pressure are the two leading causes of chronic kidney disease.

Festivities at this year's event will include food, games, prizes, music and a kids' area with face painting and temporary tattoos. Additional activities including a kidney Champions' Tent, massages, haircuts and more are also planned.

For more information about the Kidney Walk, go to nkfm.org.



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