

Why I Walk

Bob Hazod Walk to End Alzheimer's Milwaukee County

26 Years of Unwavering Commitment to Walk To End Alzheimer's

Bob Hazod has been at every Walk To End Alzheimer's - Milwaukee County since 1998. And yet, he has never actually joined the many walkers along the routes at Mount Mary University in the early years and later at Henry Maier Festival Park. Instead, he has been an integral member of the volunteer planning committee that organizes, promotes and runs the Milwaukee County Walk.

"It's my passion," Bob said of his 26 years as a Walk To End Alzheimer's volunteer. "I am committed to this cause until there is a cure."

Bob's volunteer support began shortly after his father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He turned to the Alzheimer's Association for education, resources and support group assistance. Pat Miller, a friend of Bob's mother-in-law and the original director of what was called The Memory Walk in 1998, invited him to join the volunteer committee. He agreed without hesitation. He now also volunteers in honor of his mother-in-law, who has Alzheimer's disease.

Picnic Tables and Klements Sausages

He has fond memories of the Walk when it was at Mount Mary's. Bob remembers moving picnic tables from one side of the campus to the other so participants could sit while they enjoyed post-Walk refreshments, performances by the Tom Anthony Band and the awards ceremony. Once everyone left, he helped move the tables back across campus. He also helped haul water and soda and coordinated storage in refrigerated trucks of the sausages donated by Klements and grilled by volunteers.

Pre-Walk background music for registrants and volunteers was provided by "at least 20 three- to six-year-olds on their Suzuki violins; Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Frere Jacques over and over," Bob said.

When the Walk location moved to Henry Maier Festival Park in 2015, Bob took on the task of coordinating parking for the thousands of walkers, volunteers and entertainers. Safety and convenience for all have been a consistent priority for Bob and his team of volunteers.

Bob's remarkable dedication to the Alzheimer's Association was honored in 2016, when he was the recipient of the Blair Cares Award, presented by Olympic great and Alzheimer's Association Champion Bonnie Blair.



Bob receives the Blair Cares Award from Olympic Champion Bonnie Blair

**WALK
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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION