FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BayCare to sponsor Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s Pinellas County

Walk to End Alzheimer’s is the world’s largest event dedicated to Alzheimer’s care, support, and research.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., October 5, 2022-- BayCare, a significant provider of memory care services in Pinellas County, will join the Alzheimer’s Association Florida Gulf Coast Chapter as a presenting sponsor for the 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer’s® Pinellas County on Saturday, October 8 at Poynter Park in St. Petersburg.

Participants will walk to honor those affected by Alzheimer’s with the poignant Promise Garden ceremony — a mission-focused experience that signifies our solidarity in the fight against the disease. The colors of the Promise Garden flowers represent people’s connection to Alzheimer’s — their reasons for ending the disease.

“Alzheimer’s disease has significantly impacted the communities that BayCare serves,” said Scott Smith, president of St. Anthony’s Hospital in St. Petersburg, who along with Todd Jones, vice president of ambulatory experience and operations at BayCare, is serving as co-chair for the 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer’s Pinellas County. “According to the Alzheimer’s Association, more than 33,000 people in Pinellas County are living with Alzheimer’s Disease. This does not include the countless number of families, friends, and caregivers who also are impacted by this crippling illness. Events such as the Walk to End Alzheimer’s provide support to raise funds that are critical to advancing care, support and research for Alzheimer’s disease.”

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease – a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias. In Florida, 580,000 are living with the disease.

“The Alzheimer’s Association has supported more than 102 research projects across Florida and thousands globally as we discover more about this disease daily. None of this would be possible without the support of organizations like BayCare,” said Angela McAuley, executive director for the Alzheimer’s Association Florida Gulf Coast Chapter.
The Memory Disorders Center at St. Anthony's and the Morton Plant Memory Disorders Clinic provide free outpatient support for patients and caregivers that includes family consultations, resources, education, memory screenings, caregiver support groups, wellness retreats and more. To learn more about these centers, go to BayCareMemories.org.

To register and receive the latest updates for this year’s Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s Pinellas County, visit alz.org/walk.

**Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s**
The Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s is the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer’s Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk®; now the Alzheimer’s Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Together, we can end Alzheimer’s.

**Alzheimer’s Association**
The Alzheimer’s Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia – by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

**About BayCare**
BayCare is a leading not-for-profit health care system that connects individuals and families to a wide range of services at 15 hospitals and hundreds of other convenient locations throughout the Tampa Bay and central Florida regions. Inpatient and outpatient services include acute care, primary care, imaging, laboratory, behavioral health, home care, and wellness. Our mission is to improve the health of all we serve through community-owned, health care services that set the standard for high-quality, compassionate care. For more information visit www.BayCare.org.

###