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**CONTACT:** Michele Boudreau, 408.701.7175, mboudreau@alz.org

**Alzheimer's Association Announces Petaluma Walk to End Alzheimer's  
Rescheduled to December 16 at Sonoma State University**

*-Original event postponed due to wildfires; organizers add moment of reflection to pay tribute to  
fire victims-*

**SANTA ROSA, CA, November 16, 2017** – The Northern California and Northern Nevada chapter of the Alzheimer's Association today announced it will hold the Petaluma Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday December 16th at Sonoma State University. The Walk is North Bay's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Originally scheduled for mid-October, it was postponed due to the Sonoma County wildfires.

“We are determined to carry on with our mission, and support local families who are living with Alzheimer's disease,” said Shelley Dombroski, Regional Director of the Alzheimer's Association's North Bay office. “Coming together at Walk can signal the start of rebuilding our community, inspiring hope and helping us to heal. It also offers us the chance to honor those impacted by the fires and thank the thousands of first responders and volunteers who banded together to help.”

*One mile loop replaces traditional three-mile walk*

More than 750 people are registered for the December 16th Walk event. Due to the venue change, the traditional three-mile walk will be replaced by a 1-mile walk on a suspended indoor running track.

The stage ceremony, including the meaningful promise garden tribute, will go on as usual, as will other key elements such as the remembrance area, photo booth, and Kid's Corner. Participants can also stop by booths to learn about Alzheimer's disease, advocacy opportunities, clinical studies enrollment, and support programs and services from the Alzheimer's Association and other service providers.

*Remembering wildfire victims*

The Petaluma Walk is organized by local volunteers, many whom were seriously impacted by the October fires. To honor those affected, the organizers have added a moment of reflection to

the day's ceremonies. Donations of nonperishable food items will be collected, in partnership with Redwood Empire Food bank, to help meet the increased need for food and nutrition assistance in the community.

Patti Wick, who is serving in the role of the Walk's mission chair this year, is one of the community members impacted. Patti, who lost her home in the fires, plans to attend in honor of her mother and mother-in-law who died of Alzheimer's disease. "It's hard to know what to prioritize at this point," said Wick, "but I want to be there. I know we will rebuild this community - and when we do, we will still have Alzheimer's to tackle."

Participants can register at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk) or by calling 800.272.3900. Fundraising will continue through the end of 2017.

#### Details of the day

Date: Saturday, December 16, 2017

Time: 9:30 - noon

#### Location:

Sonoma State University

Recreation Center

1801 E. Cotati Avenue

Rohnert Park, CA 94928

For more information: 707-573-1210 or [petalumawalk@alz.org](mailto:petalumawalk@alz.org)

#### **About the Alzheimer's Association**

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. It is the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research. The Association's mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Its vision is a world without Alzheimer's. Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) or call 800.272.3900.

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