

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**5-Aug-09**

**Contact: Nancy Rainwater**  
**Director, Communications**  
**Greater Illinois Chapter**  
**847.933.2413 office line**  
**847.324.0373 direct dial**  
[nancy.rainwater@alz.org](mailto:nancy.rainwater@alz.org)

**Marc Gentzler**  
**Public Relations Specialist**  
**Greater Illinois Chapter**  
**847.933.2413 office line**  
**847.779.6948 direct dial**  
[marc.gentzler@alz.org](mailto:marc.gentzler@alz.org)

## **Sign up Today for the 2009 Greater Illinois Chapter Memory Walks**

*Every 70 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's disease.*

**CHICAGO, IL---**The Alzheimer's Association – Greater Illinois Chapter is calling upon all residents of Illinois to sign up for one of the thirteen Greater Illinois Chapter Memory Walks throughout Illinois.

"Excitement is building as we approach the Memory Walks," said Mollie Shapiro, manager of special events for the Chapter. "We are seeing a record number of people starting teams and raising funds. Given the shaky economy we are encouraging people to think 'outside the box' this year. We have had a lot of people choose to host third party events this year at different locations throughout the state to help their teams realize their goal. You can visit [www.alz.org/illinois](http://www.alz.org/illinois) and click on the special events tab for a full listing of ideas. Remember we can not reach our goal without your help. Every dollar that you raise will sustain the Chapter's outreach and support services and help to fund research on a national level."

Currently there are 5.2 million Americans that have Alzheimer's disease, in Illinois alone there are 210,000. Research estimates that almost twice as many are caregivers; which means in Illinois nearly half-a-million citizens are affected by Alzheimer's devastating affects. In order to continue the Chapter's cutting-edge programs and services we must act now. Memory Walk is the largest fundraiser to help continue the Association's vision of finding a world without Alzheimer's disease. It is also a wonderful way to respect and honor someone who has bravely stared Alzheimer's in the face and fought back against the ravaging affects.

To sign up for a team or to find a Memory Walk near you visit [www.alz.org/illinois](http://www.alz.org/illinois). Together we can end Alzheimer's.

**About the Alzheimer's Association** - The Alzheimer's Association, the world leader in Alzheimer research and support, is the largest voluntary health organization dedicated to finding prevention methods, treatments and cure for Alzheimer's. Since 1980, the donor supported, nonprofit Alzheimer's Association has provided reliable information and care consultation; created supportive services for families; increased funding for dementia research; and influenced public policy changes. **The Greater Illinois Chapter** serves dozens of counties with offices in Bloomington, Carterville, Chicago, Joliet, Rockford and Springfield. For more information, call our Helpline at 800-272-3900 or visit [www.alz.org/illinois](http://www.alz.org/illinois).