

**Berksmont News** ([berksmontnews.com](http://berksmontnews.com))

---

Community Connection > News

## 'Mel's Support Squad' walks for MS

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

---

Jennie Sortino represents more than 100 area walkers who will be participating in the Walk MS on May 2. There are locations all throughout the nation, and Jennie's team, "Mel's Support Squad," will be walking with many other teams at the Valley Forge National Park to help fight Multiple Sclerosis. They are, by far, the largest team at the Valley Forge location.

The team is based in Gilbertsville and the vast majority of our walkers live throughout Boyertown, Pottsgrove, Pottstown, Bally, and the surrounding areas. They have members as far away as Michigan! The team is walking in support of their friend, Melissa DeStefano, a teacher at Pottsgrove High School, who was recently diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

The team has raised approximately \$6,000 to date. They have had a bake sale at Suloman's Milk Store and the Walmart in Bechtelsville and have had a "Give Back Night" at the new Chili's Restaurant on Route 100. They would like to thank all of the volunteers, bakers, sponsors and walkers who have helped to support this event.

Sponsors include: Skone's Specialty Printing, Lapreziosa OT Services, Agliano Bros. Trucking, Farkosh Floor Covering, Main Street Pub & Restaurant in Bally, Patrick M. Mullins AEG Financial Services, Consalvi Contracting, LLC, Hex 9 Architects, Message Agency and Therm-All Insulation.

Anyone interested in joining the walk or making a donation can go to [www.walk4ms.org](http://www.walk4ms.org) and go to "Mel's Support Squad."

The following release was sent to everyone so they could learn more about the disease and support the cause for the cure:

In running shoes, wheelchairs and strollers, on scooters and holding leashes, 12,000 neighbors will gather around our region this spring for Walk MS.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society's most accessible, family-friendly event, Walk MS offers something for everyone in 2010. In addition to scenic courses and entertaining postwalk parties featuring great music and food, we'll offer "MS experiences" in Reading, Allentown and Washington Township, N.J. so that walkers can see firsthand in a fun environment what it's like to live with MS.

"Walk MS is your chance to get involved in something that has a real impact on your community and your neighbors living with this disease," said Tami L. Caesar, president of the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter of the National MS Society. "The growing personal and financial costs of MS mean people living with MS need your support more than ever."

In addition to supporting MS research in Philadelphia and across the country, Walk MS provides personalized services for people living with MS in the region. Funds raised by this event build ramps, give rides to the doctor, pay for home care aides and sponsor self-help groups for 11,000 people with MS in the Greater Delaware Valley.

For more information or to register, call 1-800-883-WALK or go to [www.walk4ms.org](http://www.walk4ms.org).

Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous

system. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis.

MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't. We do this through our home office and 50-state network of chapters by funding more MS research and providing more services than any other volunteer-led organization.

Check-in for all sites starts at 9 a.m. and the walks and runs kick off at 10 a.m.

---

URL: [http://www.berksmontnews.com/articles/2010/04/28/community\\_connection/news/doc4bd8230eeddd4213276171.prt](http://www.berksmontnews.com/articles/2010/04/28/community_connection/news/doc4bd8230eeddd4213276171.prt)

© 2010 BerksMontNews.com, a **Journal Register** Property