

FAMILY TOUCHED BY YOUNG-ONSET PARKINSON'S WALKS FOR A CURE

Two years ago, Ann Glowienke of Oswego, Illinois, and her husband, Ken, learned that Ken had Parkinson's disease. At age 38, with his whole life ahead of him, Ken found himself putting his dreams and goals on hold to learn about the disease and try to determine what his future might hold. Unfamiliar with Parkinson's, Ann decided to take the lead in researching the disease; she soon discovered Team Fox.

Reading the stories of so many people working to raise funds and awareness, Ann realized she could inspire her family, too, to approach her husband's diagnosis with optimism and hope. From that moment, she knew, they would focus on a cure. "I decided that rather than sitting and watching PD take control of our lives," Ann said, "we were going to take some ownership in finding a cure." The family was inspired to host a large fundraising event that would help them and their community take action to speed a cure.

Together they lit on the idea of a walkathon, called "Focus on a Cure." The first Focus on a Cure took place on May 20, the weekend of Ken's birthday. It was a great success and a great way to celebrate. Over 50 people attended, walked, enjoyed donated food and raffle prizes, and raised more than \$3,500 for Parkinson's research.

"I have always said things happen for a reason," Ann concluded, "and Ken now believes this too — we think in some way, being a part of the big picture and focusing on a cure, is our reason."