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Friendship Walks, Friendship Talks, that's why FriendshipWorks

We're approaching the finish line of our annual <u>Walk to End Elder Isolation: A Virtual</u> <u>Gathering</u> happening THIS Sunday, May 16 at 10 am. This event promises to be one filled with great enthusiasm, participation, and some unique moments!

At FriendshipWorks, we spent the year ensuring that our mission of reducing elder isolation and creating connection continued between volunteers and their older adult matches in old and new ways, including reaching out by phone, cards and letters; having online visits when able; clearing outdoor paths and grocery shopping; bringing the joy of music to friends via outdoor concerts; and providing online art & poetry.

Now, on the move with our annual Walk and want to invite people—wherever they may be—to join us online for a one-hour program, then head out for a safely distanced walk. While the pandemic affected people in different ways, ironically, the one constant among many was social isolation. As the pandemic wanes, we want to be sure the issue of social isolation is not forgotten, especially for those who live with that isolation every day.

We're inviting everyone to lace up their sneakers, leash their pup if they have one, mask up after our 10 am program, and put their best foot forward for the older adults of Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, Brookline, and Newton.

Our goal this year is to raise \$140,000 to serve the increasing number of older adults in need of the FREE services of FriendshipWorks. And together we can do it. Already 42 teams and 140 individual fundraisers have inched the needle to over \$115,000! It's easy to donate, or join/form a team, and there are plenty of great fundraising resources to help you.

On Walk Day, 'walkers' will enjoy a program filled with music, unique presentations, engaging stories, and a special message from the United Kingdom's <u>Minister of Loneliness</u>, Baroness Diana Barron! Be ready for a morning of inspiration and excitement before you take your walk. Be sure to share your photos with us on social media.

Whether you are walking In Honor of or In Memory of someone special, or walking with a team, remember Friendship Walks, Friendship Talks, that's why FriendshipWorks!

Please join us on Sunday, May 16, 2021, 10-11 am for a unique program. Join a team and donate today at our Walk page: www.fw4elders.org/walk. Check back after May 1 for the Zoom link to the event.

#friendshipworks #endelderisolation #walktoendelderisolation #friendshipwalks

END

FriendshipWorks is proud to have support from the following sponsors:

Our Walk to End Elder Isolation Champion Underwriter United Healthcare Community Plan



Our Walk to End Elder Isolation Count On Me Benefactor Deaconess Abundant Life Communities



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The mission of FriendshipWorks is to reduce elder isolation, enhance the quality of life, and preserve the dignity of older adults in Greater Boston. We accomplish this by recruiting, training, and matching volunteers of all backgrounds with older adults (60+) for friendship and support. Our services are based on the belief that our lives are interdependent, and that no one should be alone due to their age and frailty.