

GODDARD STUDENTS TOSS PIES TO RAISE MONEY

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Students at the Goddard School in Brownsburg throw pies in the faces of their teachers while trying to raise money for the Walk to End Alzheimer's event.

Students at The Goddard School® in Brownsburg got a chance to give their teachers a taste of their own medicine, so to speak, while raising money in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

Specifically, the funds will go toward the Walk to End Alzheimer's, which is October 16 in Indianapolis.

The premise was a simple one. Students were to take all the loose change they could find and donate it to individual teachers for the chance to chuck a pie in their faces.

"Outside of our lobby, we had all our teachers' pictures that volunteered to get a pie in the face, and then the students collected change and voted for the teachers that they wanted to throw the pies at," said Shannon Laatz of the Goddard School. "Parents bought raffle tickets for their child to have a chance to be one that threw the pies, and three children were picked. All in all, we raised \$200 and it was a huge bag of change."

All of the money raised will go to help American Senior Communities' endeavors in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, a fundraising program for the Alzheimer's Association.

Dan Benson, chief operating officer at American Senior Communities, said, "The Alzheimer's Association does invaluable work. As a senior healthcare provider, we understand the importance of what they do and consider it an honor to support them in every way possible."

The Walk to End Alzheimer's is a national endeavor that aspires to reach 35,000 teams in all 50 states and is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's research and care. There are 825 teams and 15 walks in the state of Indiana alone.

Rachel Gerrish, memory care facilitator for Countryside Meadows in Avon, is leading the local community's team, and has gone into overdrive in getting members of the area involved.

”One of the things we’ve done where people can help is we’ve gotten Pappa Joe’s Jr. in Avon will be donating 15 percent of every meal purchase on Sept. 12 and 13 if you bring in our flyer, which can be picked up at Countryside Meadows.”

American Senior Community’s involvement does not stop with the walk, however. They participate in what is called the “Memories in the Making” program, which is a version of art therapy aimed specifically at those with Alzheimer’s disease or other related dementia. It’s a program that allows patients to tangibly express themselves to their families and others by means of painting, sketching, and drawing.

In the program, American Senior Communities facilitates weekly programs for five to 10 participants, leading up to an art fair Nov. 4 at the Harrison Center for the Arts in Indianapolis.

Unlike most diseases, which have seen steep declines in percentage of deaths over the last decade, the Alzheimer’s Association reports that deaths related to Alzheimer’s have risen 66 percent since 2000.

For more information on the Walk to End Alzheimer’s or to find a walk in another area, visit the Alzheimer’s Association’s website at www.alz.org.