

WALK

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the various experiences and connections to Alzheimer's disease.

Blue flowers represent someone living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Purple represents those who have lost someone to the disease. Yellow represents someone who is supporting a person living with Alzheimer's, while orange represents those who support the Alzheimer's Association and its mission to end the disease.

This year's walk chair was CommonSpirit-Saint Joseph London Hospital President John Yanes, with Saint Joseph Hospital serving as a sponsor for the second consecutive year.

"Saint Joseph Health is really privileged to be the sponsor again this year," Yanes said. "For us, it means a lot, because being the hospital in the community, we see a lot of patients through our hospital that come to us, they're hospitalized, and there's a lot of complications with dementia and Alzheimer's."

Yanes aid the hospital's involvement reflects its mission and commitment to the community.

"For us, it's part of our mission, it's part of who we are," he said. "So it's really a privilege to make this event possible here in Southeast Kentucky."

The Tom Jensen family served as this year's

ambassador family, with sisters Natalie and Laura Jensen sharing their family's experience with Alzheimer's during the event.

Laurel County native Tom Jensen built a decades-long career in public service, serving in the Kentucky House of Representatives, where he rose to minority floor leader, and later

in the Kentucky Senate representing the 21st District. As a legislator, Jensen was a strong advocate for criminal justice reform, education, transportation and efforts to combat drug abuse, including legislation addressing methamphetamine and prescription drug abuse. He later served as the judge of the 27th Judicial Circuit

Alzheimer's has had on her father, Tom.

"As you know, Alzheimer's is a horrible disease," Jensen said. "It's robbed a man his ability to converse and be engaged."

Jensen described her father as someone who spent much of his life serving others, and working to improve the Laurel County community. She said watching her father's health decline has changed her perspective on the disease, and reinforced the importance of spending time with loved ones.

"This fight is for the next generation," Jensen said. "My hope is that my niece, El, and my nephew, Spencer, will not experience the loss of a parent to Alzheimer's."

The walk concluded



Community members and participants of the walk hold up their flowers during the flower ceremony. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD



John Yanes, President of Common Spirit-Saint Joseph London, served as this year's chairperson for the walk. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD



Participants are all smiles as they successfully complete the Walk to End Alzheimer's. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

Court.

The Jensen family was also the event's top fundraising team, raising \$10,677.53. Team Nanny Sal followed with \$3,304, while Peggy's Kids raised \$3,235.

Natalie Jensen thanked the family's friends and supporters for helping the team raise nearly \$11,000 and spoke about the impact

ed after participants successfully completed the route from Town Center Park to the Laurel County Courthouse, bringing together families, caregivers and community members in remembrance of those lost to Alzheimer's and in support of those currently living with the disease.

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SOLICITATION OF FUEL VENDORS

KCEOC Community Action Partnership announces the Coal, Wood, Propane, Fuel Oil and Kerosene Vendors are being solicited to provide home heating fuel in the SUBSIDY and CRISIS Components of the 2026-2027 Home Energy Assistance Program in Knox County.

Interested Vendors may pick up a Vendor Packet at KCEOC main office on US 25E from 8:00 to 5:00 starting 9/28/26 through 10/9/26.

Packets must be completed and returned to Angie May, KCEOC PO Box 490 Barbourville, KY 40906; 606-546-3152, by 10/9/26 at 5:00.

KCEOC Community Action Partnership is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This project is funded, in part, under a contract with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and with funds allocated from the Department of Health and Human Services.