

Walk For Awareness



VOLUNTEER ROUND-UP: Walkabout volunteers/staffers hold a meeting before the big event.



GOOD WORK: Jamie Tucker, with the Brent Woodall Foundation for Exceptional Children, works with an autistic child.



Walkabout to benefit Brent Woodall Foundation for Exceptional Children

BY Stacy Rector
Editor

The first annual walkabout to raise awareness of autism is set for Saturday, Sept. 10 at Andy Brown Jr. Community Park East, 206 E. Parkway Blvd., in Coppell.

The Brent Woodall Foundation for Exceptional Children is putting on the walkabout, which will start at 9 a.m. with registration from 8 to 9 a.m. The walk will end at 2 p.m.

"This is the first annual walkabout, but we're hoping to do a lot more of this," said Tracy Pierce Woodall, the organization's founder. "We hope to do it again next year and get started earlier so we can get ahead of the game."

The idea for the walkabout came when Tracy was brainstorming ways to raise awareness of the Foundation, autism and things that would help people understand the disease and Foundation's mission.

"We needed a way to raise money for the Foundation, and this was an interesting, community-oriented healthy thing to do," Tracy said. "I just thought about how nice it would be to bring the entire community together." The walkabout is also in memory of Brent Woodall, the late husband of Coppell resident Tracy Pierce Woodall, who died in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

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– Tracy Woodall

"This walk is dedicated to him," Tracy said, "We wanted a way for everyone to connect to something, and this is a good way to do a couple of different things."

The Foundation works with many families all over Coppell and North Dallas, as well as nationally and internationally.

The five-mile walk will have shortcuts in case anyone needs to cut out early, and water has been donated in case the heat is overbearing. Five checkpoints will offer different features, including a free T-shirt, and Nabisco snacks were donated in case anyone starts feeling lightheaded.

There will also be gift bags for all participants at the end of the walkabout, that are full of coupons and other goodies.

"We'll have a raffle where we're giving away eight round-trip tickets," Tracy said. "You have to be present to win. We'll do the raffle at noon and give the tickets out in pairs."

Mavericks' tickets are also among goodies being raffled off during the day.

The Foundation's board and staff members will be on hand during the day to answer any questions.