

## Dogs for Cures at Partnership for Cures Helps Raise Diabetes Awareness at Annual Walk

**Tacoma, Washington – May 8, 2010** – More than 3,000 walkers representing local corporations, families, schools, and other organizations participated in the 14th Annual South Sound Walk to Cure Diabetes, on Saturday, May 8th at UW Tacoma from 7:30 a.m. – 12 noon. Sections of downtown Tacoma including Stadium Way, A Street, and Pacific Avenue were closed off while participants walk the streets in support of diabetes research. The goal of the South Sound Walk was to realize more than \$300,000 for research and to spread awareness about diabetes and its complications.

Ken Grassi, Honorary Corporate Chairman and owner of Grassi's Flowers and Gifts in Tacoma, said, "Diabetes accounts for 32% of all Medicare expenditures. While we are looking for ways to revise our healthcare system, investing in research to stem the devastating affects of this disease on our citizens and our economy is vital."

Lisa Kelly, Chair of the Dogs for Cures Foundation at Partnership for Cures, and her son Liam, a type 1 diabetic, put together Team Liam, a group of supporters walking with Liam's diabetic service dog, Max. "We are out here showing others how Max and Liam work together to manage Liam's diabetes. Max can alert Liam's when Liam's blood sugar is low or high, which helps Liam stay in the healthy blood sugar range." Team Liam was out raising funds so others can have access to diabetes service dogs.

Many South Sound businesses have joined the Walk to Cure including Presenting Sponsor, DaVita, and event sponsors Kitsap Bank, KFC, Viking, Farrelli's Pizza and the Dogs for Cures Foundation. In addition to widespread corporate support, entire families from kids to grandparents take part in the fundraising efforts of the South Sound Walk to Cure Diabetes. Many grandparents with onset diabetes walked in support of a cure for their grandchildren with type 1, hoping they won't have to suffer through the same complications that they've struggled with. The effects of diabetes include heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, amputations, and pregnancy complications.

**See pictures from the event below:**



**(Team Liam)**



**(Liam and his dog Max)**



**(Booth at the South Sound Walk to Cure Diabetes)**