

Carrie Rucker – Dawsonville, GA:

Why do I walk?

I put off writing my story because I could not answer the question. Every answer sounded selfish. I was walking because my mom did it last year and my best friend was doing it, so why not. After completing the two-day walk, it hit me why I had walked and why I would walk again next year. It was a selfish reason, it all had to do with my FAMILY.

- **F** – for my family and friends – I had a blast hanging out with friends that weekend. Our stomach muscles were sore from laughing so much. For all my dad who is a survivor of prostate and bladder cancer, my grand-mother who is a survivor of cancer of the kidney, and my great-grandmother that lost her battle to cervical cancer.
- **A** – for my Addie – I hope that my precious daughter will never have to go through seeing me fight the disease or have to fight it herself. I watched my best friend’s mom fight the disease and lose to it during our high school days. I don’t want my daughter nor any one else’s daughter to go through that.
- **M** – for myself – I had to train for the walk that allowed me to get myself in better shape. It was great to have time to walk and be able to think and clear my mind. The time spent walking was for physical fitness as well as mental fitness.
- **I** - for inspiration – There was so much inspiration for each other during the walk. Everyone was encouraging others. As I crossed the finish line and walked through the line of supporters it was a true blessing and inspiration. It is something I cannot describe. It is an amazing feeling that you have to experience first hand.
- **L**- for life – for each life that could be saved by the money raised and the awareness that was created by the effort of the walk.
- **Y** – for YOU!



Carrie and her Mother, Jean