



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMIRE

Picking 'em up: Walkers for the March of Dimes trot along through the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland community College Sunday morning.

Thousands from area suburbs walk in birth defect battle

They hit the road for loved ones by the thousands in Oakland County, where more than 4,000 took part Sunday in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, a 20-kilometer trek to raise money for baby-saving research.

The March of Dimes estimated Monday that \$450,000 was raised out of Oakland County alone, where people walked out of Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills and Troy — three of 14 southeast Michigan WalkAmerica sites.

The fundraising tally for those locations is as follows:

- Auburn Hills: Over 1,000 people walked from the Oakland Community College Auburn Hills campus, raising over \$100,000.

Teams walking in Auburn Hills included OCC, EDS, Oakland County, Comerica, Chrysler and Siemens.

■ Farmington Hills: Over 1,000 people walked from the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus, raising nearly \$150,000.

Teams walking in Farmington Hills included Kroger, Home Depot, Frontier, Sprint and Weight Watchers.

■ Troy: Led by Kmart spokesperson and model Kathy Ireland and Kmart Chairman Floyd Hall, more than 2,000 walkers participated beginning at the Community Center. They raised more than \$200,000.

Teams walking in Troy, besides Troy-based Kmart, included EDS, Kelly Services, Standard Federal and Chrysler.

"The people of southeast Michigan came out in mass to walk for someone they love," said Sam McGoun, March of Dimes chapter

chairman. "They demonstrated their commitment to helping every child have a healthy start in life. We are thrilled with the success of this year's WalkAmerica."

McGoun said funds raised over the weekend will help continue the "fight against birth defects and infant mortality," through programs of research, education, community service and advocacy.

Over 1,000 teams, representing metro-area companies, clubs and organizations, went the distance for healthier babies during the walk. Kmart, the 1996 WalkAmerica national retail sponsor, is the top-ranked team in the country.

Walkers were asked to secure pledges for each kilometer they walked. Each of the 14 walk routes were set up with checkpoints offering entertainment, re-

freshments, snacks and first-aid. Victory Vans were available along the route for walkers who chose not to walk the entire 20 kilometers.

WalkAmerica is the country's original and largest walking event, and the March of Dimes most successful fundraiser.

This year, 1,500 communities across the country hosted walk sites and one million people from coast-to-coast participated.



Really pushing it: Lisa Cole of Farmington Hills and daughter Lauren, 2, participated in the walk.

Birmingham AAUW holding annual lunch

The Birmingham Branch of AAUW is holding its annual Past Presidents Luncheon on May 8 at the Birmingham Country Club, 1760 Saxon Drive, at noon. Seventeen invitations honoring the presidents have been sent.

The guest speaker will be Michael Farrell, MA, art historian, who will give a slide-illustrated lecture titled, "Mary Cassatt — Woman, Painter, Printmaker... Impact on American Taste." Mary Cassatt was befriended by Degas and the two became instrumental in promoting the Impressionists. She, because of her position in American society, exerted a lasting influence on American taste and persuaded many wealthy Americans to buy Impressionist paintings. She was largely responsible for selecting the works that make up the H.O. Havemeyer Collection in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

The popular lecturer Michael Farrell, MA, art historian, presently teaches in the School of Visual Arts at the University of Windsor. In 1994 Professor Far-

rell received the OCUFA Teaching Award. From 1977-1992 he was Adjunct Education Curator for the Detroit Institute of Arts. He has also served in the same capacity for the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences and the Detroit Historical Museum. He is an art critic for CBC Windsor and is an historic architecture critic for the Detroit News.

Luncheon is \$17.25. Checks must be received by Thursday, May 2. Send to 1938 Tuckaway Drive, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48302. Call (810) 851-4682 for seating for just the lecture, members only.

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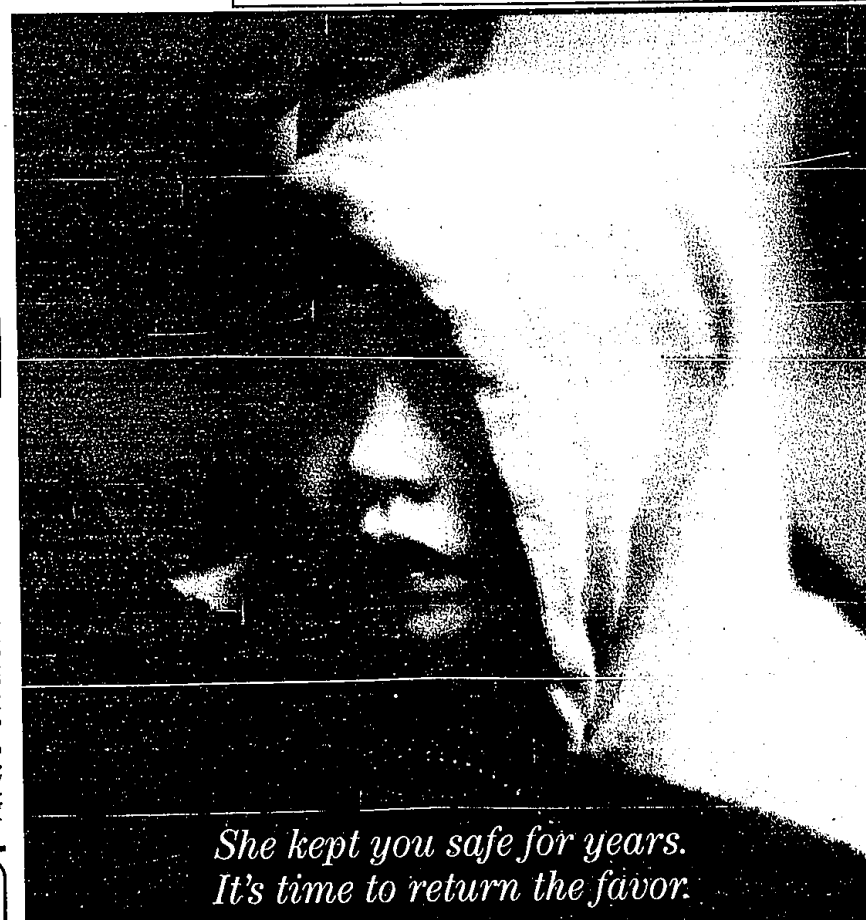
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