

Walking

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out there and screen themselves. We need to prevent cancer before it happens. When they find out they have cancer I want the best care possible," she said.

"The wonderful thing about the Avon breast cancer walk is it's for women who don't have insurance, don't have transportation, don't have spouses," she added. "It funds all sorts of programs that help underprivileged women with things like transportation and childcare."

It didn't take much coaxing on Madonna University student Tara Eddington's part to get her boyfriend, Wayne Wright, 24, of Detroit to join her in walking the Avon 3-Day. Wright's mother, Erlene Wright, lost her battle with breast cancer a few years ago.

"As soon as I mentioned the walk, he said he'd definitely do it because of his mom," said Eddington, 24.

The two of them have split their training ground between Northville and Belle Isle. Their motivation has been sustained by the walk's purpose.

"Everybody has someone in their family who has died of breast cancer," said Eddington. "Every day I think why am I doing this, and I just think that every day someone will die for this if I don't help."

A generous response

When asked why she was walking the 3-Day, Lin DeVoro, 48, a registered dietitian who lives in Livonia, had a direct answer:

"Because I can do it. It's important to change how things are done — the screening, the treatment, the money behind it... I've seen co-workers struggle. It's a constant threat for all of us."

By March, DeVoro was walking 35 miles a week. "It's amaz-



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBEL

Dyno duo: Noreen Loper of Livonia and her daughter, Debbie Pluff, have been walking 15 miles through Hines Park several times a week in preparation for the 60-mile Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day from Ann Arbor to Detroit. Loper, a cancer survivor, said she's walking out of "gratitude."

ing what the body can do," she said.

While sending out a form letter to help raise the \$1,500 has brought a poor response, co-workers and "friends of friends" have been generous," said DeVoro.

"It's the cause that brings out the checkbook."

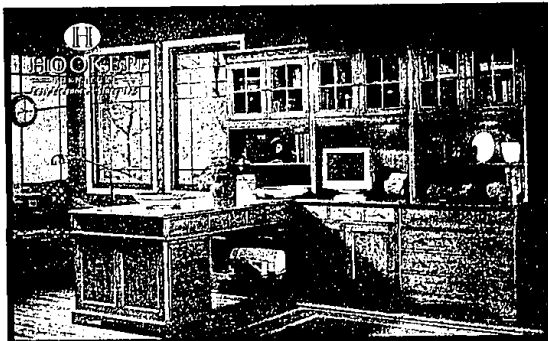
Loper agrees. "I was wearing an Avon 3-Day walk pin the other day as I was walking out of Archie's restaurant on Plymouth Road. Another woman

was walking in and spotted my pin. She gave me money on the spot."

She added: "People have been so generous. It's absolutely overwhelming."

For information about donating to the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day in the name of any one of the women mentioned in this story, please contact Observer staff members Rene Skoglund at (734) 953-2128 or Sharon Dargay at (734) 953-2054.

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