## Walkathon is emotional tribute, fund-raiser for participants

Even in death, George and Betty Andrews of Plymouth are helping the estimated 35,000 people in Michigan who suffer with Parkinsons disease, a neurological disor-der that causes slow move-ment, tremors, muscle rigidity and imbalance.

ment, tremors, musele rigidity and imbalance.

More than 250 people participated in the George and Betty Andrews Memorial 1 Gave My Sole for Parkinson's Walkathon and 5K thun May 10 at Maybury State Park.
Together they raised more than \$15,000 for the Michigan Parkinson Foundation.
Randy Lambertus, 22, of Anna Arbor was the overall 5K winner in 17:41. Sara Freatman, 41, of Ypailantl was the female 5K winner in 24:00. George Andrews, 75, head of the physical therapy department at Farmington Hills' Botsford Hospital, died of leukemia last September. His wife Betty — who had Parkinson's — died three weeks later. Betty Andrews was retired from Schooleraft College where she was assistant dean of community services.

'A MIRACLE'

#### 'A MIRACLE'

The mile was non-competi-tive. But as Warren Oberlee,

47, of White Lake crossed the finish line, tears welled up in the eyes of fineds and family.

Considering where Warren came from, it is really a mirame from the way he is now, stald Tom short and the stall a mirame from the way the is now, stald Tom she hardson of Millord, who served as race director along with Dave Barczak of Huntington Woods and Debby Orloff-Davidson of Farmington Hills, Richardson is a physical therapist assistant at Botsford's Total Rehabilitation & Athletic Conditioning Center (TRACC), which helped put on the race.

If you would have seen Warren a short while ago, you wouldn't belleve it was the same person. He couldn't dress himself or drive. He would tire out just trying to walk a short distance, Richardson said. He was just about Incapacitated. The guy is really a nitracle - and a terrific guy and lots of fun to boot.

Oberlee, who with his wife Patricia and daughters.

Annanda and Katelyn also helped stage the race, has fought Parkinson's with surgery, medication and rehabilitative exercise at TRACC.

If felt good crossing the finish line. I was pleased I was

tative exercise at TRACC.

I felt good crossing the fin-ish line. I was pleased I was able to make it, said Oberlee, facilitator of the Waterford-West Bloomfield Parkinson support group, also known as

the "Movers and Shakers." "I've been training and walking at TRACC, about two-and-a-half to three miles a week." Oberlee also raised 8875 in pledges for the mallether.

and the control of the walkathon.

Proceeds will assist the Michigan Parkinson Proundation in training support-group leaders; sponsoring educational programs; defraying newletter costs; and helping pay for care and medication.

The Andrewses' son, Greg, a Seattle architect, flew in for the cent. "This is just real touching to see this kind of thing come together and so many people responding," he said.

### AN INSPIRATION

Greg said his mother was an Greg said his mother was an inspiration. "She struggled with Parkinson's for many years," he said. "She was amazing – an inspiration to the family. She never complained. I think that's the reason you see so many people responding," he said. "They remember that."

that."
Richardson agreed. "Betty
was very loving, very kind, and
compassionate," he said. "And
phenomenally active in the
community," said race codirector Orloff-Davidson, chief operating officer of the Michigan Parkinson

The Andrews' three daugh-ters - Christina Courtley of Franklin, Tenn., Janis Burleson of Plymouth, and Laurie Butman of Ypsilanti and their children also

Carol Poenisch of Northville

Carol Poenisch of Northville teaches physical education at John Glena High School in Westland. She offered her students extra credit if they completed the walkathon or run. Not only did Glenn junior Tiffany Morgan walk the 3.1-miles with her teacher, but she brought six relatives and friends with her including her mother, but she does not be supported to the students of the stude

Mitchell of Westland did the same.
Setting off with them down the wide ribbon of black top at Maybury were Tilfany's sisters, Sara, 12, and Renea, 11, and friends Meghan Glass, 11, and Kala Contway, 12, also of Westland.
You couldn't have asked for a better result for a first-time event, said Orloff-Davidson, Ste credited TRACC, fellow race directors Tom Richardson and Dave Bartezak, and Volunteers Bartezak, and volunteers Jennifer Lantz of Birmingham, Ilene Hafner of Huntington

Woods, Paul Hendricks of Northville, the Oberlees and Michigan Parkinson Poundation staffers Diane McQuiston of Farmington Hills and Sophie Tomich of Allen Park

Allen Park.
Corporate partners and sponsors of the event included Park West Galleries, Park West Galleries, Community Emergency Medical Service, J. Walter Thompson, Quest Research, Wolverine Orthotics, GlaxoSmith Kline, Buddy's Pizza, Aquadina, Botsford Hospital, Botsford's Total Rehabilitation & Athletic Conditioning Center, Henry

Ford Health System; Michigan Neurvlogy Institute, Providence Hospital, Running Fit, St. John Hospital and Medical Center, Great Harvest Bread Company: Estate Planning Service; Direct Medical Services; Advanced Printwear, Meijer of Northville and Beaver Tile and Stone of Earmington Hills Farmington Hills.

For more information on Parkinson's, contact the Michigan Parkinson Foundation at 30161 Southfield Road, Suite 119, Southfield, Mich., 48076 or (800)852-9781.

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### Yanachik

Sophie Elise Yanachik was born to parents Keith and Cindy Yanachik of Farmington Hills at 12:12 a.m. Friday, May 23 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. She weighs 6.2 pounds and is 20 inches long. Her hair is dark brown and she has blue eyes. Sophie is the couples first daughter. Her grandparents are Michael and Shirley Yanachik of Sicklerville, N.J., and Marie Boffa of Sterling Heights. Great-grandparents are Lawrence and Mary Winchester of Farmington Hills and Virginia Yanachik of Dearborn Heights.

Sophie's Godparents include her uncle, Mark (Melissa) Yanachik of Seattle, Wash, and her aunt, Lisa (David) Eklund of Shelby Township, Mich.



