THE KNOCKTURNAL

Walk to End Alzheimer's Raises $1.3 Million

The touching Central Park gathering with over 5,000 participants will help raise awareness and finding a cure



Knockturnal, Nov 18, 2026

More than 5,000 people joined the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Central Park on Nov. 11.

Bill Ritter and Ryan Field of WABC-TV served as the event emcees after a special rendition of the National Anthem from singer Diana Bidea.



“We’re here today because we understand the challenges and we are united in our determination to end Alzheimer’s and all other dementia. Right now, there is real momentum in the fight against this disease,” reflected Field to the audience.

The event known to touch the lives of New Yorkers and beyond around the globe raised over $1.325 million dollars for the care, support and research programs of the Alzheimer’s Association.

In its third year in Central Park, the Manhattan Walk to End Alzheimer’s has grown to become one of the largest walks in the nation. New York has the second highest rate of Alzheimer’s of any state in the nation. More than 426,000 New Yorkers are living with Alzheimer’s, including more than 188,600 people in New York City. The funds raised at the event are important to continuing to provide support services for these New Yorkers and for advancing research.



Ritter, who recently stepped away from anchoring *Eyewitness News* following a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s earlier this year, told the crowd at the Walk, “Talking about Alzheimer’s helps. It reduces the stigma and the fear because it’s easy to feel alone with Alzheimer’s. We all deserve access to the best treatments and the best care. Now is the time for us to come together to make that happen.”

The Opening Ceremony concluded with the Promise Garden ceremony. Several New Yorkers came onto the stage to hold up flowers representing their connection to the disease. Ritter joined Abby Tochinsky and Gail Washington in holding blue flowers symbolizing those living with Alzheimer’s. They also invited everyone in the crowd to hold up their flowers before starting the Walk through Central Park.

The Walk was made possible thanks to its sponsors Cannataro Family Capital Partners, VNS Health, Genworth CareScout, Capital Group and its committee chairs Lou Cannataro, Gianna Marro and Chelsea Stellick.

Donations are accepted until Dec. 31 for the Manhattan Walk to End Alzheimer’s. To donate, visit act.alz.org/manhattanwalk.

The Knockturnal is a digital media outlet founded in 2015 that covers entertainment, celebrity news, fashion, lifestyle and cultural events. The publication features interviews, event coverage and stories highlighting notable people, organizations and happenings across the entertainment and lifestyle industries.