

20th July 2020

2020 Los Angeles Virtual Team Hope Walk raises over \$35,000.

Hiren Patel, Principal of BITs Software and President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) co-chaired the Los Angeles Virtual Team Hope Walk on Saturday, July 18.

The virtual walk was a real walk, but on participant terms: they chose their own course, walking in their driveways, neighbourhoods, in their house and even on their treadmill. Says Hiren “While we were sad to cancel the annual in-person event due to Covid19, we were excited to see HD families virtually participate from around the world. The money raised will allow us to fund important support groups, educational events and research towards a cure.”

The walk raised over \$35,000 will all proceeds supporting HDSA's mission to improve the lives of people affected by HD and their families. Hiren who has been an active volunteer for over 8 years also founded Hoops for HD to honour Nilesh Patel who eventually lost his battle with HD on August 29, 2012.

Team Hope is HDSA's largest national grassroots fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities across the U.S. and has raised more than \$14 million for HD since its inception in 2007. Thousands of families, friends, co-workers, neighbours and communities walk together each year to support HDSA's mission to improve the lives of people affected by HD and their families.

A Fatal Genetic Disorder

Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. It deteriorates a person's physical and mental abilities usually during their prime working years and has no cure.

Every child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of inheriting the faulty gene that causes Huntington's disease. Today, there are approximately 41,000 symptomatic Americans and 200,000 at-risk of inheriting the disease. In less than 10% of cases, juvenile Huntington's disease (JHD) affects children & adolescents. JHD usually has a more rapid progression rate than adult onset HD; the earlier the onset, the faster JHD progresses. HD is described as having ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases – simultaneously. HD is characterised by a triad of symptoms, including progressive motor dysfunction, behavioural disturbance and cognitive decline.

For more information on HD LA visit <http://greaterla.hdsa.org/>

For more information on Hoops for HD visit <http://www.hoopsforhd.com/>

For more information on Huntington's Disease of Society America visit <https://hdsa.org/>

For more information on Huntington's Disease Association visit <https://www.hda.org.uk/>

For more information on BITs visit <https://bits.company/>