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### **FOOTSTEPS IN HOPE 8K AIDS WALK AT RESERVOIR**

Ridgeland, Miss. – Walk 8,000 meters in *Footsteps In Hope* and remember the 8,000 people that die from AIDS each day. This event will take place along the Reservoir in Ridgeland, Miss. on Apr. 6 at 2 p.m.

*Footsteps In Hope* is a walkathon that will benefit AIDS victims in sub-Saharan Africa. Zimbabwe, Africa is the primary area that *Footsteps In Hope* supports. People lack adequate healthcare, making them vulnerable to the AIDS virus, which is an ongoing epidemic in Zimbabwe.

On a local level, *Footsteps In Hope* will allow volunteers and participants in the Jackson metro area to create awareness of AIDS locally and internationally. Participants will also raise funds to provide healthcare for AIDS victims and educational programs on this virus.

“*Footsteps In Hope* is a project that allows participants and volunteers to give their time or monetary donation in an effort to end AIDS on a local level and around the world,” said Liz Coleclough, primary organizer of *Footsteps In Hope*.

This event will allow people of all ages to support the fight against AIDS. A leadership team of students will organize the walkathon that will be split into four categories: volunteers, children, youth and adults.

Volunteers are responsible for organizing and assembling this project. Child participants are elementary and middle school students who will walk for AIDS orphans not able to afford healthcare or school. Youth participants are high school, college and graduate students walking for AIDS victims in need of treatment. Adults will walk for family survival from disease, poverty and the overwhelming orphan situation in sub-Saharan Africa.

Teams can range from 2 to 20 people, who will decide upon a personal fundraising goal to support their team. Three suggested fundraising options are: \$800 supporter pledge, \$2,000 patron pledge or \$8,000 benefactor pledge. If a participant brings in at least \$45, he or she qualifies as a Sponsored Walker and will receive a free t-shirt and wristband.

Funds raised will be distributed as follows: 40-percent will go to healthcare clinics and programs in the Jackson metro area, 40-percent will help improve clinics and health programs for rural countries and 20-percent will go toward operational costs.

All volunteers and participants in *Footsteps In Hope* will have the opportunity to stay for a candle lighting ceremony in memory of passed AIDS victims. This ceremony will symbolize renewed hope for preventing and ending AIDS.

For more information on how to participate or financially support *Footsteps In Hope*, email Liz Coleclough at [footsteps.jackson@gmail.com](mailto:footsteps.jackson@gmail.com) or call at 901-338-7011. People may register to participate in Footsteps In Hope online at [www.footstepsinhope.org](http://www.footstepsinhope.org)

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