**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Media Contact:**

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**CHICAGO FAMILIES COME TOGETHER TO END**

**LIFE-THREATENING GENETIC KIDNEY DISEASE**

*Chicago Walk for PKD raises money to treat and cure polycystic kidney disease (PKD).*

**CHICAGO, Ill.** – This year, Theresa Raguso and her father Sal Raguso of Chicago will join thousands nationwide to come together and walk in support of those affected by polycystic kidney disease (PKD). PKD is one of the most common, life-threatening genetic kidney diseases. It affects thousands in America and millions worldwide, who are in urgent need of treatments and a cure. It is the fourth leading cause of kidney failure.

The 2015 <CITY> Walk for PKD is planned for <DATE> at <LOCATION> with PKD patients, their families, friends and members of the PKD medical community fundraising and walking together to unite to fight and end PKD. Registration is at <TIME>, with the walk beginning at<TIME> .

Theresa Raguso and her team, Sal’s Pals, have been participating in the Walk for PKD since 2007 in honor of her father, Sal Raguso. Sal has PKD and the disease has affected others in his family for generations. Through her involvement with the Foundation, Theresa has found a way to feel like she’s making a difference for her loved ones … and raise awareness of a disease that isn’t as well known as other chronic diseases.

“I meet so many people who have never heard about PKD, so it’s always encouraging to see so many new faces at the Chicago Walk every year,” she says. “The chance for people with PKD to get together and share experiences with others going through the same thing is another invaluable experience the walk makes possible.”

The annual Walk for PKD is the signature fundraising and public awareness event for the PKD Foundation and is the largest gathering of PKD patients, family, friends and supporters; more than 11,000 strong. The Walk for PKD is hosted in more than 50 cities nationwide. Since 2000, the Walk for PKD has raised nearly $24 million. This money raised supports the PKD Foundation’s efforts to fund research to find treatments and a cure, and to provide information and support to people affected by PKD.

Register for the Chicago Walk for PKD at [walkforpkd.org/chicago](http://walkforpkd.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1107006).

**About PKD**

PKD patients are in urgent need of treatments and a cure. PKD causes cysts to grow in the kidneys, eventually leading to kidney failure. Once a person has kidney failure, dialysis or a transplant are the only options to treat the damage the disease has caused. Parents with the disease have a 50 percent chance of passing it on to each of their children. Approximately 10 percent of the people diagnosed with PKD have no family history of the disease, with PKD developing as a spontaneous (new) mutation. Once they have it, they have a 50 percent chance of passing it on to each of their children. A relatively rare form of PKD, autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD), affects approximately 1 in 20,000 children, and often causes death in the first month of life.

**About the PKD Foundation**

The PKD Foundation is the only organization in the U.S. solely dedicated to finding treatments and a cure for PKD to improve the lives of those it affects. We do this through promoting research, education, advocacy, support and awareness. Our goal is that one day no one will suffer the full effects of PKD. For more information about PKD and the PKD Foundation, visit pkdcure.org or call 1.800.PKD.CURE (753.2873).

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