

## Let's wear orange March 11-17

Written by Kyle Ferguson, Lexington  
Thursday, 07 March 2013 16:22 -

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MS Awareness Week is March 11-17.

I challenge all Dawson County residents to wear orange during MS Awareness Week in honor of those that have MS or have passed from MS. Let's create a sea of orange this week.

Multiple sclerosis destroys connections inside us. It disconnects the mind from the body and people from each other. But what if we could defy this disease with the very thing it seeks to destroy—connections.

Having multiple sclerosis means that you may not be able to walk when you wake up. Or that you may suddenly have impaired vision. Or that your memory will fail you for no apparent reason. The symptoms of MS are different, and devastating, for everyone. The only certainty is that it will affect yet another person every hour of every day.

The number of people living with multiple sclerosis increases every hour of every day. This astonishing rate is not going to slow down, let alone stop, until we've found a cure. Research has made some incredible advances recently, but the world can still only offer disease management drugs and therapies to the 400,000 people living with MS in America.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society funds more MS research than any other private organization. The society also provides much needed education, programs and services to everyone who is affected by MS, including those diagnosed with the disease, their friends and families, and the healthcare professionals who work with them.

Teams are the heart of Walk MS—literally. Did you know that teams raise 81% of all Walk MS money nationally? Our efforts are at the heart of the society's efforts to stop MS progression, restore what has been lost and end MS forever

I want to do something for the people who have been diagnosed—and because I want to keep more people from learning what it means to live with this disease. Today, there is no cure for

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multiple sclerosis, and with a diagnosis occurring most frequently between the ages of 20 and 50, many individuals face a lifetime filled with unpredictability.

Because we choose to donate to the event we are getting closer to the hour when no one will have to hear the words, "You have MS."

As I also celebrate my third year anniversary this week of hearing the three words "You have MS" which changed my life forever I have chosen to fight while I still can so no one else will have to hear them someday.

I challenge you to join a team as a walker or form a team of your own or be a volunteer. Make a donation online. Send in a check. Contact me for more information on Dawson County Walk MS 2013, Saturday, May 25, at Lake Helen. Check-in is at 8 a.m.; walk begins at 9 a.m., Join the fun or support the walkers and help us find a cure. You may reach me at 308-325-9691 or email [lex.mswalk@yahoo.com](mailto:lex.mswalk@yahoo.com).