

May 3, 2008

Sara's Third Annual Walk for Epilepsy was held today, May 3, 2008. The morning was plagued by a driving rain. Worries of nobody showing up for the walk were buzzing around my house. Even with the uncertainties surrounding the day, my family set out to make the best of it.

We arrived at The State University around 10am, several cars were in our caravan. We had tents, water, snack foods, giveaways, t-shirts, raffle prizes, etc. Staff from SUNY met us with tables, chairs, etc. The Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York arrived with items for registration and information to share with anyone who requested it. While the sky still dropped buckets of rain around us we went about our business setting up for the kick off. More people arrived with more stuff for the walk; the DJ, Stuff-A-Bear, Radio Disney, popcorn, cotton candy, etc.

With less than 20 minutes to go before the walk began, the rain stopped! It was still cold and damp, but we were dry! Amazingly we were dry!

12 noon, walkers by the droves arrived! Registration was busy signing in everyone, raffle tickets were selling like hot cakes, everyone donned their bright yellow Sara's Walk t-shirts and the Executive Director from the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York, Jeannine Garab, started things off with a warm welcome to everyone, she explained why we were all here today and thanked everyone for coming. She then said that a few people could not be here today, but wanted to send well wishes to me. She said they each wrote a little something and she would like to read what they each had to say. She started with the first letter. The letter said in short... **"Your hard work and dedication has paid off"...** **"Your inspiring example and determination demonstrates how a single individual can make a remarkable difference"...** **"Best wishes for a successful event" ...** **"Sincerely yours, [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#)"**. I was floored by this. She then opened another letter; this one had an official government seal. It was a New York State Assembly Citation write and signed by Assemblyman [Kevin Cahill](#). His citation discussed my work over the past three years and his recognition of the same. The last and final letter was a State of New York Legislative Resolution from Senator [Steven Bonacic](#). Senator Bonacic passed and adopted this resolution in the senate on April 30, 2008. His resolution also discussed my work over the past three years. Copies of the Letter, Resolution and Citation will soon be on my "Update" page on [www.itsnotwhoiam.com](http://www.itsnotwhoiam.com) to view. The microphone was then turned over to SUNY President, Steven Poskanzer. He also welcomed everyone to SUNY and discussed the importance and the dedication of SUNY to its community and thanked everyone for coming out to Sara's Walk to do the same. Lastly I took the mic and in a short speech, I also thanked everyone for coming out on this cold damp day to help support me in my outreach and invited everyone to join me as I lead them around the beautiful SUNY campus for a two mile walk.

It took us about 40 minutes to complete our tour of the campus. Once we returned DJ, Krista Jones, started pumping up the volume on the music and then a Sara's Walk first happened, everyone started dancing right there in the parking lot. The energy was

awesome! The clouds may have hidden the Sun, but at that moment no one would have every known it. Dancing, singing and laughter was everyone's one and only concern.

To keep things going, at about 1:30 the raffle took place, over \$1800.00 in prizes were given out. Some people won multiple prizes. Then came the big announcement. The first estimate of what was made by donations and the raffle. We succeeded in raising over \$15,000.00 and we had a promise from many others that donations will continue to come in during the next several weeks.

This proves what I have said many times before; I have a wonderful community, awesome friends and the best family ever! They all came out to support me and my personal quest to break the stigma surrounding epilepsy by spreading awareness and raising funds that will directly help those with epilepsy right here in our region! I cannot say it enough, so I will say it again, thank you for making today a total success!!!

Sara-Elizabeth

P.S. I am asking one last favor from everyone who attended the walk, I would love to see your pictures from today, please send them via email to [webmaster@itsnotwhoiam.com](mailto:webmaster@itsnotwhoiam.com). Maybe you might see them posted on my site. Thanks again!

Sara-Elizabeth