

## Concord Walk & Roll-athon

The planning committee and local support groups in the area worked hard to make Concord's first Walk & Roll-athon a success. Over 150 survivors, family members, friends, volunteers, students and professionals came to the barn at Frank Liske Park on March 19<sup>th</sup>, including Display Booths from Carolinas Rehabilitation, Relay NC and the Murdock Center and teams such as Mozelle Singleton-Berger. Several people collected pledges to help the Brain Injury Association of NC continue to be a voice for brain injury and reach out to all survivors and families. Our deepest thanks to statewide sponsor: Charles G Monnett III and Associates.

At this point, over \$7,000 has been raised from this event and donations are still arriving. The day of the event was sunny and spirits were high. The crowd got warmed up with Wilminia Gripper (1,2,3Jump). Our walk and roll went down a path and around a small lake. One team carried a banner in memorial to Hal Falls, a much loved young man, with support from friends, family and his church, the Forest Hill United Methodist Church. Lunch was donated thanks to Harris Teeter, Sun Drop, Troutmans BBQ, ChickFilA, Clearly Carolina, Subway and other generous sponsors. Mascots Homer the Dragon (Charlotte Knights) and Lug Nut (Speedway) and Pilot and Anchor Club Brainminders Owl and Monkey, the Chick Fil A Cow, and a Fire Dog were there to entertain the crowd.

Larry Sprinkle from News 36 was the MC and did a fabulous job of highlighting brain injury facts and recognizing those who helped with the event. Music and DJ were donated and provided by Tim Troutman (CharlotteOutdoorStage.com) and shirts provided due to the generous donation of Hinds' Feet Farm. Special thanks to Jackson Park Fire Dept and the Highway Patrol for their safety and smoke house displays and to the Mt. Olive United Methodist Church and the awesome students from the Cabarrus College of Health and Science. We were happy to know that Travis Makin enjoyed the event and deeply saddened when we learned that he had passed away in the following weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with Travis, his mother Gayle Pittman, and all his family. Each person and each day is precious and we can honor Travis by making the best of each day that we are given. .



Survivors, families and friends get ready for the Concord Walk



A large team from Forest Hill United Methodist Church walked in memory of Hal Falls



Warming up for the Walk with Lug Nut



Concord Walk & Rollers get ready for a beautiful walk at Frank Liske Park



Travis Makin and Gayle Pittman attend the Concord Walk & Roll-athon. BIANC was deeply saddened to learn of Travis' death due to pneumonia a few weeks after the walk. He will be missed by everyone who loved him.



Larry Sprinkle and Homer the Dragon



Larry Sprinkle introduces the father of Hal Falls, who had a large memorial team walking for him in Concord.