

Special Event Planned to Raise Awareness for Pulmonary Hypertension

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Lauren Johnson and Southwestern Oklahoma State University arts education students in Weatherford are partnering together to raise awareness of pulmonary hypertension in Oklahoma.

“Walk a Mile in My Shoes” is an event sponsored by Johnson and her mother that will be held at the Oklahoma City Zoo on Saturday, April 12, from 8-10 a.m. Johnson and approximately 400 participants will walk a mile around the zoo to raise awareness of the rare disease.

Throughout the walk, each participant will receive paper roses that are constructed from the stories of people with pulmonary hypertension.

SWOSU art students and area residents are helping make the roses. If anyone would like to help with this cause, please contact Joana Hyatt, assistant professor of art education at SWOSU, at joana.hyatt@swosu.edu.

Following the walk, SWOSU art students will help PH patients and their families design and create a unique pair of TOMS shoes to mark the special event that day.

Everyone is invited to the walk. No registration is necessary. Admission into the zoo will be \$2 for children and \$4 for adults.

PH is increased pressure in the pulmonary arteries. PH causes symptoms such as shortness of breath during routine activity, tiredness, chest pain and a racing heartbeat. As the condition worsens, its symptoms may limit all physical activity.