

ACTIVE HEALTH

Fighting A Growing Public Health Threat

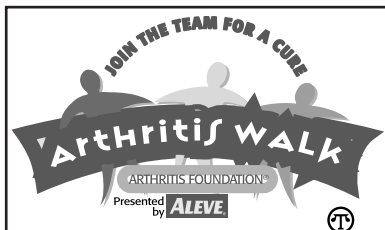
(NAPSA)—Today, there are 43 million reasons to walk. By 2020, there will be 60 million reasons to walk—in a nationwide team event to fight arthritis.

Arthritis is already the nation's number one cause of disability, affecting people of all ages, genders and races.

As arthritis surges to epidemic proportions, the Arthritis Foundation is fighting back with the Arthritis WalkSM, a new nationwide team walk event to raise awareness and funds. The event kicks off National Arthritis Month in nearly 50 cities across the U.S. in May 2002.

"With 60 million Americans facing arthritis by the year 2020, now is the time to take action," said Tino Mantella, president/CEO, Arthritis Foundation. "Not only is walking beneficial in the prevention and control of arthritis, money raised from the Arthritis Walk will fund promising research that is critical to finding new therapies, treatments and a cure for arthritis."

By teaming up and joining the Arthritis Foundation, corporations and individuals can make a difference in the lives of Americans who suffer from arthritis, including 8-year-old Toi Leon, the national honoree for the Arthritis Walk. Leon was diagnosed at the age of 2 with systemic juvenile rheuma-



Walking is good for arthritis in more ways than one, say the experts.

toid arthritis, a potentially disabling form of arthritis.

At her young age, Leon has endured five knee surgeries and a regimen of medications, physical therapy and doctors visits.

The national presenting sponsor of the Arthritis Walk is Aleve[®], marketed by Bayer Consumer Care.

Other national sponsors include Osteo Bi-Flex[®], a dietary supplement for joint health and *Prevention* magazine.

The Arthritis Foundation is the only nationwide, nonprofit health organization helping people take greater control of arthritis by leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases.

For more information about the Arthritis Walk and to register, call the Arthritis Foundation at (800) 960-7682 or visit www.arthritis.org. For a free brochure about walking and arthritis, call (800) 283-7800 or visit www.arthritis.org. 