**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Media Contact:**

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**CHICAGO FAMILIES COME TOGETHER TO END**

**LIFE-THREATENING GENETIC KIDNEY DISEASE**

*Chicago Walk for PKD raises money to treat and cure polycystic kidney disease (PKD).*

**CHICAGO, Ill.** – This year, Theresa Raguso and her father Sal Raguso of Chicago will join thousands nationwide to come together and walk in support of those affected by polycystic kidney disease (PKD). PKD is one of the most common, life-threatening genetic kidney diseases. It affects thousands in America and millions worldwide, who are in urgent need of treatments and a cure. It is the fourth leading cause of kidney failure.

The 2018 <CITY> Walk for PKD is planned for <DATE> at <LOCATION> with PKD patients, their families, friends and members of the PKD medical community fundraising and walking together to unite to fight and end PKD. Registration is at <TIME>, with the walk beginning at<TIME>.

Theresa Raguso and her team, Sal’s Pals, have been participating in the Walk for PKD since 2007 in honor of her father, Sal Raguso. Sal has PKD and the disease has affected others in his family for generations. Through her involvement with the Foundation, Theresa has found a way to feel like she’s making a difference for her loved ones … and raise awareness of a disease that isn’t as well known as other chronic diseases.

“I meet so many people who have never heard about PKD, so it’s always encouraging to see so many new faces at the Chicago Walk every year,” she says. “The chance for people with PKD to get together and share experiences with others going through the same thing is another invaluable experience the walk makes possible.”

The annual Walk for PKD is the signature fundraising and public awareness event for the PKD Foundation and is the largest gathering of PKD patients, family, friends and supporters; more than 11,000 strong. The Walk for PKD is hosted in more than 50 cities nationwide. Since 2000, the Walk for PKD has raised nearly $30 million. One hundred percent of the funds raised from the Walk go to PKD research to help find treatments and a cure.

Register for the Chicago Walk for PKD at [walkforpkd.org/chicago](http://walkforpkd.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1107006).

**About PKD**

PKD patients are in urgent need of treatments and a cure. PKD causes uncontrolled growth of fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys, often leading to kidney failure. Once a person has kidney failure, dialysis or a transplant are the only options to treat the damage the disease has caused.

There are two types of PKD: autosomal dominant PKD (ADPKD) and autosomal recessive PKD (ARPKD). ADPKD is more common and affects an estimated 600,000 Americans and 12.4 million people worldwide. Parents with ADPKD have a 50 percent chance of passing it on to each of their children. Approximately 10 percent of the people diagnosed with ADPKD have no family history of the disease, with PKD developing as a spontaneous (new) mutation. Once they have it, they have a 50 percent chance of passing it on to each of their children. The less common form, ARPKD affects approximately 1 in 20,000 children, and often causes death in the first month of life. Only 70% of children born with ARPKD survive the newborn period and one-third of those who survive will need dialysis or transplantation by age 10.

**About the PKD Foundation**

The PKD Foundation is the only organization in the United States solely dedicated to finding treatments and a cure for PKD.

**Our mission:** We give hope. We fund research, advocate for patients and build a community for all affected by polycystic kidney disease (PKD).

**Our Vision:** #endPKD

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