



Lymphatic Education
& Research Network



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Contact: Laura Farrell

lfarrell@lymphaticnetwork.org

Kathy Bates gets her wish as stars celebrate top #LymphWalk fundraisers
Academy Award-winning actress shares the stage for lymphedema and lymphatic diseases

Santa Monica, CA - June 26, 2016 - At last year's cocktail party honoring top fundraisers for the CA *Run/Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases*, Kathy Bates (spokesperson for the Lymphatic Education & Research Network - LE&RN) told the crowd she wanted the event to get bigger every year and for more people to become aware of what has been called a silent "lymphedemic®." This year, the Academy Award-winning actress saw her vision become a reality.

Last night, Hollywood friends Angela Bassett, Billy Bob Thornton, Cheyenne Jackson, Sarah Paulson, and Holland Taylor joined Ms. Bates at the Huntley Hotel Regal Room in Santa Monica at a reception to kick off this year's Walk on June 26th. Bates, who acknowledges that she has lymphedema, has dedicated herself to making lymphedema a national priority in the name of all those suffering from lymphatic diseases. Up to 10 million Americans have lymphedema, which is often underdiagnosed, underfunded, and ignored even though it is disfiguring, disabling, and can lead to deadly complications.

Bates became a spokesperson for LE&RN at the 2014 Walk in New York City. Since then, she has appeared on numerous television shows, been interviewed for magazines, and has traveled to Washington DC to lobby for research funding. She has been determined to use her celebrity to bring awareness to these diseases.

"Maybe if people can put my face on lymphedema," Bates has said, "then more people will be willing to come out of the shadows and talk about it."

"Last night's event showed the power of people coming together," said William Repicci, Executive Director of LE&RN. "The fundraisers who had worked so hard were inspired to see Kathy and other celebrities support their efforts. Lymphedema and lymphatic diseases are truly coming out of the shadows."

The CA Run/Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases took place today in Santa Monica. Visit www.LymphWalk.org to donate or to support a team.

Run/Walks to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases to benefit LE&RN now take place in three states (California, New York, and Texas), and are proudly presented by LE&RN and our national sponsors: BSN medical (Premier National Sponsor), Tactile (Presenting Sponsor), Juzo, BioCompression Systems, ImpediMed, Eiger Biopharmaceuticals, Mikimoto, MediUSA, and Jay W. Granzow.

About LE&RN

Founded in 1998, the Lymphatic Education & Research Network (formerly LRF) is a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization whose mission is to fight lymphatic disease and lymphedema through education, research and advocacy. LE&RN provides valuable education resources for the millions of people who suffer from lymphedema and lymphatic disease. LE&RN fosters and supports research that can deepen the medical community's understanding of the lymphatic system. For more information about lymphatic disease or the Lymphatic Education & Research Network, please visit www.LymphaticNetwork.org or call (516) 625-9675.

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