

Greater Boston



Join the Greater Boston Take Steps Walk on
June 8, 2019!

[Get Started Today](#)

[Donate to a Friend >>](#)

Saturday, June 8, 2019

 [Add to calendar](#)


Location

[North Point Park](#)
Boston
MA

Schedule

09:00 AM Check-in and
Festival Start
10:00 AM Walk Start

Staff Contact

[Colleen Marfione](#) 
(646) 477-3581

Hello Family and Friends –

I'm excited to share with you that I've been named the Pediatric Honored Hero for this year's Greater Boston Take Steps Walk. It has always been important for me to take action against my Crohn's disease by raising funds and awareness for IBD, but now that I have been named the Honored Hero for the event, I thought it might be a good time to share my personal story with my friends and family, and give you the opportunity to join me in making a difference this year.

I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease in February of 2010. I was 7 years old. Back then, I didn't have a true understanding of how this diagnosis would impact my life, but I knew I was in good company since my mom, Faith, and my older cousin, Kevin, had both been diagnosed with Crohn's disease years prior. I remember receiving the diagnosis and thinking, "Ok. Mom and Kev have this, too. We are in this together. I will be fine just like they are".

And for the most part, that was true. I was fine. They were fine. We were one happy family, all living with Crohn's disease, seeing our GI's to manage our symptoms, and carrying on with our "normal" lives of school, friends, sports, and work. But after three years of managing my Crohn's disease with medication, my body stopped responding to the treatment. My original symptoms came back in full force, and now – 9 years later – I am STILL working with my healthcare team to identify a treatment that may be able to help me. So far, I haven't had much luck, and this past year has been one of the most challenging years for me yet in terms of my physical health. I have missed over 70 days of school, had 2 colonoscopies and multiple other GI tests, and I still do not have any answers or solutions to manage my Crohn's disease. But I remain hopeful. I have to.

I know that the funds raised through the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation and through Take Steps are being put towards funding research that is desperately needed to help find better treatments, and ultimately a cure, for IBD. It is simple – the more money that is raised or donated, the faster more treatments will be available for people like me who really need it. This concept brings me the hope I need to continue fighting my IBD, and it is what keeps me going when I feel like giving up. For this reason, my family and I have made a big commitment to take our fundraising efforts to the next level this year. In addition to hosting our annual golf tournament in the Fall (which raised \$17K last year!!), we have committed to raising an additional \$10,000 by Walk day (June 8th). Our total fundraising goal is \$27,000, and I am confident that we will reach it, but we need your help. Would you consider donating either \$50 or \$100 to my fundraising page? If I can get 100 people to donate \$50 and 50 people to donate \$100, we will raise the \$10,000 in no time! Here is a link to my fundraising page where you can make your tax deductible donation: <http://online.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/goto/Ben2019>

Thank you for your consideration and for your support! It is greatly appreciated, and means a lot to me.

Sincerely,

Ben Farnham