

Nonprofit Chamber of Services
Nonprofit of the Week

This series has been established with the intent of increasing awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary for example, please make this known and we will do all possible to accommodate a spotlight that coincides. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say “thank you” for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn a bit more about our community of nonprofits.

If you are going to be out on a cold December morning running through Sedgwick County Park to raise money for a good cause, why not wear a Santa suit? Well, that’s exactly what some of the 400 runners and walkers who participated in the Kansas Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation’s 18th Annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis did. In addition to a few Santas there were plenty of Santa’s helpers, and lots of jingle bells too.

The money raised by the Jingle Bell Run/Walk and other annual events hosted by the Kansas Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation is used to fund awareness and education programs, as well as research. If you missed your chance to participate in this year’s Jingle Bell Run/Walk, don’t put those running shoes away just yet. The Kansas Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation will host multiple “Arthritis Walks”, Arthritis Foundation’s annual nationwide event, throughout the state this spring.

The mission of the Arthritis Foundation is to improve lives through leadership in the prevention, control and cure of arthritis and related diseases. Understanding the impact this disease is having in the U.S. makes it clear just how important the mission of the Arthritis Foundation is. According to Denny Bender, President of the Kansas Chapter, more than 70 million Americans, 300,000 of them children, are fighting Arthritis or some form of the disease. In Kansas 660,000 people are affected by Arthritis, the number one cause of disability in America.

In an effort to provide a personal introduction to the work of the Arthritis Foundation in Kansas, the state Chapter in October launched a series of information sessions titled, "Arthritis First Hand." These free, one-hour introductory events are designed for anyone who has been affected by the disease or who wants to learn more about what the Foundation is doing to provide leadership in the prevention, control and cure of arthritis and related diseases.

For the last two years the Kansas Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation has been under the leadership of Denny Bender, President and CEO. Previously, Denny served as Senior Vice President – Communications for Habitat for Humanity International. Denny currently serves as a board member for the Nonprofit Chamber of Service and recently played a key role in helping to plan the *Good Works!* Board University.