



'Walk for Fun... Walk for Life'

2009 LIVEr Champion



Sue Doughty

**Louisville Liver Life Walk
Sunday, May 17, 2009**

Harbor Lawn in
Waterfront Park

Registration: 1:00 p.m. Walk Begins: 2:30 p.m.

Sue's Story:

I was diagnosed with liver disease in 1984 after a routine physical. My internist sent me to a gastroenterologist who would oversee my progress for the next twenty years. I was told from the beginning that I would need a liver transplant, but that the disease was slow-acting. Unfortunately, there was very little information about my disease and few resources available. I continued with my job and personal life for many years with no symptoms. I began to see a hepatologist about fifteen years into the progression of the auto immune disease called Primary Biliary Cirrhosis.

The diagnosis of stage four (end-stage) liver disease came in 1999, but I was not sick enough to be placed on the transplant waiting list. As time passed I began to exhibit some symptoms of PBC – fatigue, higher liver enzymes, and encephalopathy – and was no longer able to work. I slept most of the time and couldn't walk very well causing my muscles to atrophy. I don't remember most of the final year prior to transplant.

My hepatologist sent me back to Jewish Hospital Transplant Center for another work-up and it was determined that my condition was deteriorating rapidly and I was placed on the waiting list on May 7, 2005. On May 17, 2005, I received a life-saving liver transplant and after a fairly short time, I was a healthy individual again! I am very fortunate to have met my donor's family after corresponding for about a year. They are wonderful people and live near us.

My life is full and rich and I feel absolutely great! I can handle the daily functions of my life very well. My husband retired this year and we do volunteer work for an organization called Second Chance at Life to inform people about the need for organ and tissue donation and to ask them to sign the Kentucky or Indiana Donor Registry. We have begun to do volunteer work for The American Liver Foundation Heartland Division. I look forward to many more years of good health and volunteerism.

**Register or begin your own team in honor of Sue or someone with liver disease
at www.liverfoundation.org/walk!**