

take note

help fight multiple sclerosis

Loveland's Walk MS is looking for 50 to 70 volunteers to assist with its event May 9, which will raise funds for multiple sclerosis awareness and research.

"Volunteers are really pivotal to our success," said Allison Hines, regional development manager. "We can't do it without help from local volunteers."

As of now, they have about half the volunteers they need, which is better than where they were last year.

"We're seeing our registration numbers at an increase despite economic circumstances," Hines said, adding that they're "hopefully optimistic."

Last year, 500 walkers participated in the event and raised more than \$50,000. Hines expects a similar number of walkers this year and says gift cards, wearables and even CSU football tickets will be awarded.

"We've got a lot of incentives," Hines said.

Multiple sclerosis affects more than 9,000 people in Colorado, which is one of the highest incidence rates in the U.S. — though the reason for that is unknown, Hines said.

According to a press release by Loveland's Walk MS, "Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information between the brain and stops people from moving."

Can't decide whether to walk or volunteer? Just do both. "People can come early and still participate," said Hines.

Part of Hines' passion stems from personal experience. Her mother was diagnosed with MS. Hines attended MS walks long before she joined the program in 2005.

"I was excited about the event and am still excited to be part of the event," Hines said.

To volunteer for Loveland's Walk MS, call 482-5016 or e-mail allison.hines@nmss.org.

— **nicholas loverde**