



Lymphatic Education  
& Research Network



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2<sup>nd</sup> annual CA Run/Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases held in Santa Monica**  
*2016 Run/Walk shines with star power, enthusiastic crowd, and \$50K raised*

New York, NY - July 7, 2016 - Academy Award winner Kathy Bates kicked off LE&RN's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *California Run/Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases* to a record-breaking success on Sunday, June 26 with over \$50K raised for research.

Kathy Bates got the party started the evening before the Walk with a cocktail party for top fundraisers hosted by LE&RN and Premier National Sponsor BSN medical. Hollywood friends Angela Bassett, Billy Bob Thornton, Cheyenne Jackson, Sarah Paulson, and Holland Taylor joined Ms. Bates and LE&RN's fundraising superstars at the Huntley Hotel Regal Room in Santa Monica for a fun-filled evening.

Ms. Bates has served as LE&RN's official national spokesperson since 2014 and has dedicated herself to making lymphedema a national priority. 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.

The Run/Walk, held the following morning, drew well over 200 participants and raised \$50,000 for lymphedema and lymphatic diseases education, research, and advocacy.

"We are seeing the dawning of a new era in the fight against lymphedema and lymphatic diseases," said LE&RN Executive Director William Repicci. "It isn't only the explosion of passionate commitment by celebrities and politicians alike. It is the fervor of the lymphatic community itself that emphatically is saying, 'We will not be silenced and we will win.' At the reception hosted by Kathy Bates and at our CA Walk, one saw this zeal galvanized at every turn."

Two advocates were recognized for their contributions with awards at the event. Linda Hackney received the *LE&RN Dedication Award* for her commitment to improving her health and recovering from life threatening complications from her lymphedema, and Marie Apodoca received the *LE&RN Inspiration Award* for participating in her first 5K at last year's Run/Walk in spite of tremendous obstacles.

Visit [www.LymphWalk.org](http://www.LymphWalk.org) to learn more about *Run/Walks to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases* around the country, to participate, 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](http://www.LymphaticNetwork.org) or call (516) 625-9675.

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