



# Fundraiser spotlight

## Team Allen: Walking in memory of her son

**Last February, Leona McKay lived every mother's nightmare;** she lost her son to MS.

Allen Walter Dootoff Jr was 41. He was the eldest of three and loved ball hockey. Allen was diagnosed with MS in the spring of 2013. Within two years, lesions on his brain impaired his vision and balance to the point where he was no longer able to work.

"We had no idea what MS was or how devastating it could be," says Leona. "We discussed participating in the MS Walk and making it a family event. My son decided he would cheer us on from the sidelines," says Leona. Allen died of complications due to his MS before having the chance to see his family cross the finish line.

Team Allen is made up of 56 dedicated people who continue to work together to raise money and awareness for MS in Allen's memory. His employer, Pacific Blasting, supports

Team Allen and continues to provide an annual educational bursary in his honour.

"His death brought about an awareness of MS and how devastating the disease can be," says Leona. Raising funds for resources and medical research is necessary for Allen's mom, who saw the struggles her son faced because of his MS.

Leona remembers her son speak of his dream for a cure, which would allow him to go back to work, enjoy his artwork and drive his Mustang again.

"Deep down, I know he would want us to continue the fight on his behalf."

Leona continues to fight for a cure, in the hope that it will give someone else's child the chance to live a long, full life.

*If you want to join Team Allen or participate in any of the 19 Walks in BC, go to [mswalks.ca](http://mswalks.ca).*