



## cy fair sun - news

### Springfest offers community a walk to remember

[Print Page](#)

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For the fifth consecutive year, clients at Reach Unlimited will be able to take pride in completing a one-mile walkathon.

Springfest 2010 is a day full of games, silent auction, client art show and walkathon, put on by Reach Unlimited, an organization dedicated to providing quality support services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"This year's theme is 'Warm my heart, not my planet,'" said Susan White, Director of Communications and Community Relations for Reach Unlimited. "A lot of things will be on display that are made of recycled material."

Springfest is a yearly fundraiser that is open to the community.

"It demonstrates to the community all of the good things that Reach does for the wonderful clients it serves. It's a great opportunity for the clients and the community to celebrate being in this thing together."

Vicki Scianna's daughter Blair is a client at Reach Unlimited and said Reach has made a noticeable difference in her daughter, who is severely disabled – nonverbal and confined to a wheelchair.

"Reach has offered us a security and sense of peace I don't think we would have had without it," Scianna said. "We were looking for a place to put her when she graduated high school so that she could interact with others."

Blair lives in a group home at Reach and visits the activity center each day. Scianna said she and her husband visit Blair almost every day.

"It was important that we be able to go visit Blair often, but also ensure that she has quality people that care for her," Scianna said. "It's not like she can call us on her cell phone and complain. Reach is like another form of family for her."

Scianna said where she and her husband used to be Blair's primary means of socialization, Blair has now developed relationships with her housemates and caregivers.

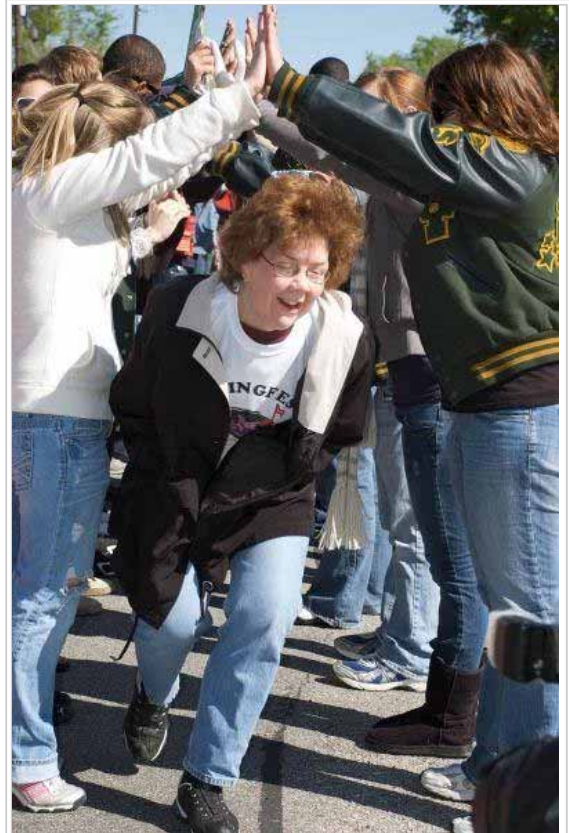
"When Blair goes to the activity center, she has fun doing different things and plays well with others," Scianna said. "We'll see her sitting with one of her housemates and suddenly reach over and hold her hand. The housemates play and interact with her and take turns at the activity center every day to check on her."

Scianna said her family has been to Springfest in the past and look forward to attending this year.

"Springfest is so much fun. Everyone is out there walking – it doesn't matter if they are on walkers or in wheelchairs," Scianna said. "All these high school students form an arch and the walkers walk under the arch, whether they are first or one hundredth. Everyone is cheering for them."

Scianna said the community should feel fortunate and blessed to have Reach Unlimited in the northwest area.

"We need to support them and encourage their growth so that they can continue to be here and service their clients, as well as future clients," she said. "Reach offers so much. Those people give their heart and soul every day."



Leah, a client at Reach Unlimited, emerges triumphantly from an arch created by the PALS groups from Cy-Fair high schools during last year's Springfest.

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