



## Press Release

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# LUNG FORCE Walk Returns November 16 in Honor of Lung Cancer Awareness Month

*American Lung Association's 11<sup>th</sup> annual event, held at the University of North Florida, fundraises for lifesaving research and public health initiatives*

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – (August XX, 2024)** – Members of the Jacksonville community will participate in Lung Cancer Awareness Month by lacing up their sneakers and joining the LUNG FORCE Walk on Saturday, November 16. The American Lung Association's family-friendly event, known for its celebratory and welcoming atmosphere, will take place on the University of North Florida's scenic campus.

The LUNG FORCE Walk provides critical funds for lifesaving lung cancer research, early detection initiatives and awareness outreach in vulnerable communities. The walk, which features one-mile and 5K routes, is open to individuals of all fitness levels, lung cancer survivors, caregivers, families and company teams.

"Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S., but there is hope," said Winton Mays, chair of the Lung Association's North Florida Leadership Board and financial advisor with Bridgewater Wealth Advisors of Raymond James. "Funding research, promoting lung cancer screening and reducing stigma around the disease is the key to unlocking a future free of lung cancer and lung disease."

Mays added: "We encourage the Jacksonville community to join us to honor the memory of those we've lost to lung cancer and lift up those who need our support. Let's make every step count to save lives!"

The LUNG FORCE Walk supports lifesaving research, programs and advocacy for the nearly 252,000 people in the Jacksonville area suffering from lung disease, including lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. Here in Florida, it is estimated that more than 18,600 people will be diagnosed with lung cancer this year alone.

Registration for the LUNG FORCE Walk is free. Participants who raise \$100 or more are eligible to receive an event shirt. For more information, and to register, visit [LUNGFORCE.org/Jacksonville](https://LUNGFORCE.org/Jacksonville)

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### **About the American Lung Association**

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to champion clean air for all; to improve the quality of life for those with lung disease and their families; and to create a tobacco-free future. For more information about the American Lung Association, which has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and is a Platinum-Level GuideStar Member, call 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872) or visit: [Lung.org](https://www.lung.org). To support the work of the American Lung Association, find a local event at [Lung.org/events](https://www.lung.org/events).

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