

Press Release

Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Man Walking Across United States to Raise Money for Cancer Society Arrives in Springfield this Weekend

Springfield, Mo. – A man walking across the United States to raise money for the American Cancer Society will experience some Springfield hospitality this weekend thanks to the Holiday Inn & Suites.

The hotel will provide complimentary lodging for Joe Zeno, 25, who began his trek March 8 from San Diego. Today, he is on Interstate 44, heading east toward Springfield, where he expects to arrive Saturday or Sunday.

Zeno, who said he's walking 20 to 25 miles per day, is raising money through donations made on his Web site – www.JoeWalks.com – and by speaking at events, etc.

Zeno also is relying on the generosity of those along the way, such as the Holiday Inn & Suites.

“The response I've received from the folks I've encountered along the way has been tremendous,” Zeno said. “People out here are really generous and it makes me feel safe to know so many people are looking out for me.”

Michael Bloom, general manager at the Holiday Inn & Suites, said he admires what Zeno is doing.

“We're extremely happy to help,” Bloom said. “The majority of staff members at the hotel have personally been touched by some form of cancer in their family. It's a great cause and we're glad to assist Joe in his worthy endeavor.”

The reason Zeno is “Taking Big Steps to Beat Breast Cancer:” his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer 10 years ago and the support of the American Cancer Society has helped her through her illness.

“I wanted to do something that other people could get involved with and get excited about to help fight this disease,” Zeno said. “I wanted to do something that would generate interest over a long period of time.”

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