

## Media Release

**We believe that people affected by brain tumours should never walk alone.  
This June in Windsor, they won't!**

Meet Lisa Clarke: a wife, a mother, a community volunteer, and a brain tumour survivor with an uncanny ability to find the bright side in any situation. On a morning like any other, Lisa opened her mouth to say farewell as her husband left the house, and found that she was at a complete loss for words.

**"I couldn't get any sound to come out... It was scary. When I finally did, it was completely garbled."**

Lisa had been experiencing headaches, which she dismissed as allergies; bouts of unsteadiness, although inner ear exams revealed no cause for concern; and moments of intense sensory overload, which she could not explain at the time, but later learned were seizures. This instance of speech confusion, however, instigated the testing that changed her life forever. After a set of CT scans, and with her husband by her side, Lisa was diagnosed with a grade 3 Anaplastic Astrocytoma, a rare form of malignant tumour that accounts for approximately 2% of all brain tumours and can occur anywhere in the brain, making her one of the estimated 27 Canadians diagnosed with a brain tumour every day.

**"I did a lot of praying. I prayed for the courage and the strength to do what I had to do and get through it, and I feel like my prayers were answered."**

Three weeks later, Lisa underwent surgery to remove the brain tumour, after which she had six weeks of radiation and two years of chemotherapy. Finding strength in family, friends, and faith, Lisa did her best to stay positive and keep "all of the questions with no answers" at bay.

**"Cancer takes a lot from you, but I feel as though I have received a lot too. I received the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's handbook while I was in the hospital and I read it cover to cover. I was like a sponge, and left the hospital knowing more than when I went in."**

This year, Lisa continues to generously volunteer her time, her support, and her hope to Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, as they work together to find the cause of and cure for brain tumours.

**"I know that I am living a great life and the treatments that I've received have kept my tumour under control. I can't say that I'm cancer free – because I'm not – but I do consider myself a survivor. I feel like I am living proof that the research that is being done is making a difference in the quality of life that cancer patients have. It's helping to extend lives, my life." I hope that I can be an inspiration to others. It's very fulfilling, and in some way, it validates why I've been through this experience."**

Celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada will be returning to Windsor for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Brain Tumour Walk, a unique opportunity to celebrate survivors, honour those who have passed away, and raise awareness about this devastating disease. Run by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and local volunteers, this event will raise money for programs, services, and life-changing research.

**"Patients and families are the heart of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. The Brain Tumour Walk will support the hundreds of people in Windsor affected by a brain tumour diagnosis and we're so thrilled to see the excitement and support ramp up for this event," says CEO, Susan Marshall. "Together we make a real difference in the lives of those affected by brain tumours."**

Join Lisa on Saturday, June 10, 2017 for Windsor's 14<sup>th</sup> annual Brain Tumour Walk. We believe that no person affected by a brain tumour should walk alone, and on June 10<sup>th</sup> they won't!

## Media Release

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### Media Availability/Photo Opportunity:

- **What:** A celebration of hope, perseverance, and the beauty of community that has been 35 years in the making!
- **Availability:** Lisa Clarke, survivor and Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada Ambassador
- **Where:** Riverside Sportsmen Club, 10835 Riverside Dr E, Windsor ON
- **When:** Saturday, June 10, 2017: 8:30am - 12:00pm
- **Survivor Photo:** 9:45 am
- **Opening Ceremonies begin:** 9:50 am
- **Walk begins:** 10:00 am
- **Fundraising Goal:** \$60,000

**To schedule an interview with Lisa Clarke or for further information about the 2017 Brain Tumour Walk events, please contact:**

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