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# Thousands Walk for Autism

ADVERTISING

Posted By: [Jennifer Leslie](#)  
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Connor Phillips of Duluth was the captain of his own crew at the [Georgia Walk for Autism](#) at Atlantic Station on Saturday.

"Connor's awesome," said Henry Phillips, Connor's dad. "Connor is five years old. He was diagnosed with autism at three years of age."

Since he was diagnosed, Connor's dad said his son has made remarkable strides.

"With the right intervention and love and care and great people around us, utilizing all the resources available, there's great hope with this illness," Phillips said.

Autism is often described as an epidemic, affecting one in every 136 children in Georgia.

The Marcuses of Bartow County have twin boys, and both of them are autistic.

"It's very hard," said Rebecca Marcus. "It's a daily struggle, but we get through it. We're strong. They're strong."

Saturday's walk drew 20,000 people, despite the rain.

Together they raised hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"Half of the money goes to [Autism Speaks](#), which goes to research, and half goes to [The Marcus Institute](#), where we take care of kids," said Bernie Marcus, founder of the Marcus Institute. "With everything we raise here, we're taking care of kids."

With the right kind of care, he pointed out, kids with autism can have futures that are full of promise.

11 Alive was one of the sponsors of the second annual Georgia Walk for Autism.

## Video Available

### Jennifer Leslie Reports



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