

2007 STEPS COMMUNITY HEROES AWARDS PROGRAM  
HELD ON JUNE 6, 2007 IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

BRUCE AND BRENDA HENDRICKS' ACCEPTANCE SPEECH  
TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO

BRUCE HENDRICKS: We're from Cherry Creek New York, the Community on the move. If you're curious about the cow, Cherry Creek is a decidedly rural area and we have a lot of dairy farms. We thought it was an appropriate mascot for our program. Brenda and I both felt honored to be nominated for this award and even more honored to be accepting it this morning. Members of our Cherry Creek community have had a dream to work together to have a memorial and dreamed to have a gazebo and summer concert series and safe areas to walk. Now, we have a memorial park with a gazebo for a summer concert series, which includes a lighted walking path around its perimeter, thanks to the Steps Program. Another goal is to bring our community together as we walk in this park and walking path and enjoy the summer concert series together. We wanted to be personally involved in our community and to enhance community spirit.

BRENDA HENDRICKS: Through the Steps walking program, our participants did walk more than thirty-four million steps in over seventeen thousand miles. And they toured throughout the United States. We started out having them walk. We found another Cherry Creek in Colorado; a park. And we thought we'd have them walk from Cherry Creek Colorado and back the six weeks. The first week they had walked to Colorado and halfway back. So we had to come up with something different. So one of our residents, a member of the organization that we're in found several more Cherry Creeks in the United States. So we continued to walk, finding Cherry Creeks in Nevada, South Dakota, North Dakota, Idaho, Mississippi, and Alabama which we visited two and a half times in the span of six weeks. We ended up over here and that's where we're still visiting. We didn't even go home. But we thought that was really remarkable for our community to come together and to walk that far. And as far as I know, a lot of people are still wearing the pedometers and still walking. We realized our goal of obtaining a secure, well lighted walkway and people could enjoy walking in this attractive environment. We're working on making improvements. As a village board member Bruce has always been interested in promoting and expanding our village parks for safe recreation and exercise. My involvement in my school's health advisory committee and elementary schools' contact committee led to our elementary schools involvement in our walking program also last year. Our principal set up the program with incentives to turn off the TV and get active. And this program is being repeated against this year. Steps to a Healthier New York has definitely made a positive impact on our community as we continue to be a community on the move. And we thank you, Steps Program, especially in Chautauqua County, for all you've done for us.

END OF SPEECH