

Heart Walk set for Saturday

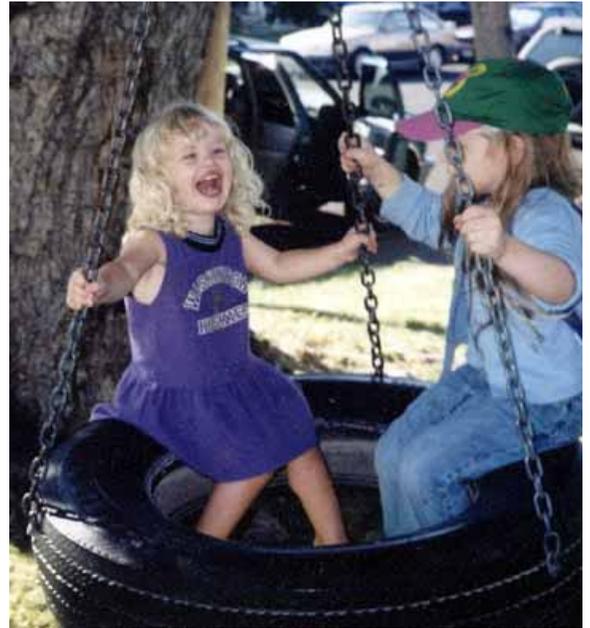
Among the walkers at the 2001 Heart Walk to be held Oct. 13 at Howard Amon Park in Richland will be Jordan Pratt, the Heart Walk Hero. Jordan is the two-year-old daughter of CH2M HILL employee Jeff Pratt and his wife Jackie.

Shortly after she was born, Jordan was diagnosed with aortic valve stenosis. When she was two weeks old, Jordan's aortic valve was replaced with her own pulmonary valve, and her pulmonary valve was replaced with a donor valve. Jordan is doing well today, and another surgery to replace her donated pulmonary valve may not be necessary until she is a young adult.

The Tri-Cities Heart Walk is the largest annual event to raise funds for the American Heart Association, a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. In 1998, 42 percent of all deaths in Richland and Pasco and 41 percent of all deaths in Kennewick were caused by cardiovascular disease.

Registration for the 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) Heart Walk begins at 9 a.m. and the walk begins at 10 a.m. There will be a 1-kilometer turnoff for people preferring a shorter route. New events this year include many activities for the kids, such as the Home Depot Kids Projects. Red caps will be handed out to participants who are survivors of heart attack or heart surgery, and white caps will be given to survivors of stroke. Tribute forms and ribbons will be available for walkers to dedicate their participation to loved ones.

There is still time to sign up to participate or support the Heart Walk financially. For more information, contact Dale Denham at 376-8550, Katie Larson at 375-3698, Jim Lilly at 373-3329, Jeff Pratt at 373-3035, Karen Welsh at 376-2151, or Dawn Johnson at 582-9001 or at dawn.johnson@heart.org. ♦



Heart surgery survivor Jordan Pratt (left), the 2001 Heart Walk Hero, swings with her cousin Ashley Radosevich. Jordan will be joining her family for the Oct. 13 walk in Howard Amon Park to raise funds for the American Heart Association.