



## Why We Walk – KCC’s Doorways to Opportunity



For six years, Kingsborough’s annual Walk-A-Thon has served a dual purpose: dividing the college’s faculty and staff into competitive teams, while at the same time uniting them for a common cause. Every year, different departments compete with one another to see who can raise the most funds for student scholarships, and on the day of Walk-A-Thon they (often literally) wear their KCC pride on their sleeves as they trek around campus. The team who raises the most money proudly takes home the “Golden Shoe” trophy.

This year, however, a new competition was added to the fray. Of the 34 Walk-A-Thon teams, 14 partook in KCC’s first-ever “Decorating Doors” challenge. As the name suggests, the participating teams were tasked with creating imaginative, visually appealing designs to display on their office doors. Each door’s design evoked not only the spirit of Walk-A-Thon, but the unique role each department plays in helping students overcome their obstacles and achieve their dreams:

*“I walk to pay it forward,”* says Mickie Driscoll ’88, Director of Human Resources and captain of **Mickie’s McMarvels**. Her door features various costumed crusaders, including Avengers teammates Thor, Iron Man, and Captain America, to emphasize the “heroic” role her team plays in raising funds for students in need.

*"I walk because I was the first person in my family to ever attend college,"* says Tina Kopel of the Library and captain of **Library Links**. *"I know firsthand what an important opportunity attending college is for our students."* As one might have guessed, her door resembles a stacked library shelf, emphasizing the trove of knowledge and resources the library offers our students.

*"I walk to support scholarships so students can be successful in their academic and professional careers,"* says Marissa Joseph, Director of the Career Development Center and member of the **C-102 Crew**. Her door is cleverly modeled after a Facebook feed and is full of postings from "friends" (represented as various icons) about the career development process.

One team captain had a more philosophical take on the importance of Walk-A-Thon at KCC. *"Every step we take brings students closer to their dreams,"* says Corissa Vialva of College Advancement and captain of **The Scholar Ships**, *"step by step, we are making graduation happen for them."* On her door, brightly-colored rocketships careen through the stars, symbolizing the transformative role that scholarships play in taking students to new heights.

Ultimately, though, it would be the **Continuing Ed. Cataloguers** of Continuing Education who would take home the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize for their eye-catching door decoration: a giant, quasi-futuristic rendering of the MAC building overlooks a green field cluttered with images that represent the different career-tracks offered through continuing education (an ambulance for EMT Training, an American flag for Veterans, a stethoscope for Nursing, etc.) while winged tennis shoes and dollar bills float in a blue-sky backdrop. *"Many of us in Continuing Education are Kingsborough alumni,"* says Roe Stender, *"so this cause is dear to hearts, since we know firsthand what our students go through. Walking is our way of showing students that we've got their back, that we'll support their dreams."*



[Click here](#) to see all of the decorated doors and hear testimony from Walk-A-Thon captains.

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**KCC perspective with us. *Whether you are a current student or an alum, a faculty or staff member, a retiree or a distinguished donor, [you can also share your story!](#)***

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