



Nick Walters  
*Biography*

As a fifth grader watching a commercial on lung disease during summer vacation, Nick Walters thought to himself how lucky he was that he did not have any health problems. Less than a week later, Nick almost died from the onset of juvenile diabetes; his blood sugar level was so high that it proved almost fatal. Following advice from his health providers, he was given clear medical direction on diet and insulin. The doctors explained to him that if there was enough funding for juvenile diabetes, a cure would be found and the disease would no longer exist. It was only a matter of time and also of much needed money.

Nick understood that he had no control over time, but he discovered that he could have an impact raising money. After 17 years of fund-raising, Nick has helped raise over \$1,250,000 for juvenile diabetes research. He is one of the top fund-raisers for the Central Maryland Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDF). Nick has done most of his fund-raising in connection with the JD Foundation Walk-A-Thons. In addition, he helped educate the public regarding juvenile diabetes through presentations at health fairs, schools, and United Way meetings. He rounded out his high school service activities by volunteering with the Special Olympics, St. Vincent's Home for Battered and Abused Children, and a local nursing home.

As a student at George Washington University, Nick broadened his commitment to service by co-founding the university's Latinos for Progress. The organization focuses on advocacy for all Latinos as well as integration of service within the academic setting. Recently, he updated his book, *Diabetes and Doing Your Best*, which he originally authored as an adolescent. He currently is the co-owner of an auto finance company.

Although Nick speaks on serious topics of life and the world we live in, he uses humor to bring home his message. From his own experience with service, Nick shares that we as individuals and as a community can hurdle our own unique obstacles with service to others as part of the solution. Through multiple speaking engagements in high schools, colleges, and religious places of worship, his power to captivate an audience is never lost. While continually raising money for the JDF, Nick is dedicated to spreading the word of service and its importance in our society through promoting confidence in children and building the community.