

## How You Can Make the Difference...cont'd

[Click here to sign up as an arthritis advocate.](#)

### *You Can Be an Advocate.*

When Mary Battle's adult daughter, Kayla Smeraglia, developed arthritis, they both took action. Kayla works for the Arthritis Foundation in Birmingham, AL. And Mary took action to advocate for better access to care, raise funds and drive an area-wide public service announcement video campaign.



“*At first, I wanted to do something about Kayla's arthritis and I felt like I couldn't. But I was wrong. There are things I CAN do – things that anyone and everyone can do. Must do.*”

— *Mary Battle, Arthritis Foundation volunteer*

### *You Can Get Involved Locally.*

[Click here to find your nearest local office and events.](#)

Dr. E. Robert Harris is a medical school professor, research investigator, hospital unit director and private practice rheumatologist. But his work fighting arthritis goes beyond that; he contributes to the Arthritis Foundation — fundraising and personally sponsoring and leading local events. He serves on the Pacific Region's board and executive committee, and is past chair of the region's board of directors.

“*I can go on and on about Bob's commitment to the fight to cure arthritis. Because of his lifelong commitment to patients with arthritis, I know he wakes up almost every morning thinking of ways to help us financially. His willingness to connect us through his physician relationships has resulted in continuing growth for our Walk events. Without exaggeration, I have never met a more passionate soul for our cause.*”

— *Manuel “Manny” Loya, CEO, Arthritis Foundation Pacific Region*

*Left: Dr. Bob Harris leads his Team Joint Doc at the Walk to Cure Arthritis.*

