

# First Lady Tonette Walker

---

First Lady Tonette Walker was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She spent more than 20 years employed in the insurance industry before working for the American Diabetes Association. Currently, the First Lady works in the development department for the American Lung Association. Tonette and the Walker family share their time between Madison and Wauwatosa where their sons Matt and Alex attended high school. Both sons are now in college; Matt attends Marquette University, and Alex attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As First Lady, Tonette most enjoys using her role to help improve the lives of the people of Wisconsin. She is currently working in partnership with various foundations and non-profit organizations to better recognize, understand, and address the effects of trauma on the lives of children and families in Wisconsin. Through this partnership, she hopes to establish the State of Wisconsin as a national leader in the Trauma Informed Care movement.

Tonette also works regularly with Teen Challenge of Wisconsin, a faith-based organization dedicated to the healing and rehabilitation of teens and young adults with substance abuse addictions. The First Lady works to raise awareness for the group throughout the state, and also assists Teen Challenge in their fundraising and expansion efforts.

In an effort to promote health and fitness and to showcase some of the beautiful but lesser known sites across the state, Tonette invites the people of Wisconsin to “Walk with Walker.” Each month, the First Lady is joined by local residents, visitors, and friends and family to walk a short trail and explore Wisconsin’s most picturesque scenery.

Wisconsin is home to some of the friendliest and most giving people in the nation. To recognize the generosity of many Wisconsin residents, the First Lady presents a Wisconsin Heroes Award each month. The award goes to a resident who voluntarily devotes his or her time and energy to a non-profit organization or cause. The First Lady understands the value of this devoted volunteerism and honors these “heroes” who ultimately make Wisconsin a better place.