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NEWS

Relay For Life tallies report over \$78,000 raised

By

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The 13th Annual Relay For Life of Wright County-Twin Cities took place May 7-8, at the Mountain Grove High School Track, Panther Stadium-Wilson Field. Hundreds of Relayers refused to let the cold and windy weather dampen their enthusiasm for the event. Though some money still continues to come in, the total amount raised at press time was \$ 78,344.17.

The Opening Ceremony began at 7 p.m. with the Presentation of Colors by the Mtn. Grove High School JROTC. This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Tammy Cudworth. Pastor Wayne Cannon of the Emmanuel Baptist Church provided the Invocation.



This year approximately 120 registered Survivor's attended the event. The Oldest Survivor: Beverly Ray, The Youngest Survivor: Trey Atkins, and the Longest Survivor: Sharon Long cut the ceremonial ribbon to begin the ceremony. The Survivor's were also given a free T-shirt as well as a goodie bag full of gifts which included Relay For Life items and flower bulbs from the Hartville Garden Club. Shetler's Discount Grocery donated the food and Cabool State Bank provided the bottled water for the Survivor's supper that evening for Survivors and their caregivers. The caregivers were also provided a free t-shirt. "Love Throws" and Quilts, or knitted slippers, which were lovingly made by many different members of the community, were also distributed to Survivors in attendance.

The Basket/Container Auction was held in one extended session which began at 8 p.m. Teams and members of the community created themed baskets/containers which were then auctioned off to the public. J.D. Shannon, Chris Shannon, Steve Moody, and Billy Rodgers provided the auctioneering for the event which raised over \$ 2,530.

The Prince and Princess Contests were a new addition to the Relay ceremonies this year. Participants were Jorydenn Hicks, Kirston Garrison, Luke McIntosh, Hunter Potter, Peyton McDaris, Seth Locke, Canyon Jarrett, Sophee Peterson, Brady Anderson, Mollee Bohnenkamp, Ellie Peterson, Amanda Brooks, Fisher Cronney, Clair Adamson, Elizabeth Hinote, Esther Stout, Abbie Graven, and Kimon Vandivort. The winners were Brady Anderson, son of Matt and Stephanie Anderson, and Ellie Peterson, daughter of Jacob and Emily Peterson. The contest raised over \$2,900.

The Luminaria Ceremony was held at 9 p.m. This ceremony serves as a deeply inspiring memorial to those who have lost their battle with cancer as well as to honor those who have survived. An inspiring program was provided with personal testimonies provided by Stephanie Lansdown, Jennifer Atkins, Susie Choate, Ray Bradley, and Mark Bujarski. The names of all the Luminarias purchased "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" were projected on a screen by power point. Approximately 368 Luminaria bags were sold for this year's event. This was the first year that canned goods were used in the Luminaria bags instead of sand. The canned goods were then donated to the Love Center in Mountain Grove, Helping Friends and Neighbors in Mansfield, God's Store House in Hartville, and SOS Crisis Center in Cabool. The Hartville School students collected over 1036 cans for the "Cans For A Cure" campaign.

Several individuals raised \$1,000 or more: Jenny McKinney, Susie Choate, Susan Matlock, Parker Mattix, and Susan Clash. Jenny McKinney raised the most money with a total of \$ 3,006. Each received a gray colored t-shirt designating them as members of the \$1,000 club and to recognize them for their contribution to the Relay.

The coordinators want to extend a special "Thank You" to the 2010 Corporate Sponsors: Gold Sponsors (\$1,000): St. John's Clinic, Mountain Grove News-Journal, and 92.5 The Grove; Silver Sponsors (\$500): Bank of Mansfield, Cabool State Bank, Western Dairy Transport, Craig-Hurt Funeral Home, Cabool Enterprise, First Home Savings Bank, Progressive Ozark Bank, The Mansfield Mirror, Community First Banking Company, Bn'T Loan, Elliott-Gentry Carder Funeral Home, Hutchens Industries, Great Southern Bank, and First Christian Church; Bronze Sponsors (\$250): Mountain Grove Schools, YMCA, Kelly Real Estate and Auction Company, Holman Howe Funeral Home, Hospice Compassus, Mansfield Building Supply, Richards Brothers Supermarket, Darrah & Company, Physical Therapy Specialists Clinic, Service Plus, Legacy Bank and Peterson Construction. Other sponsors were Mountain Grove Schools, Shetler's Discount Grocery, Wil-Co, MGHS JROTC, Peterson Gravel and Ready Mix, First Home Savings Bank, First Christian Church, and the St. John's Clinic.

Twenty-eight teams participated in this year's Relay For Life event: Western Dairy Transport "Battling For a Cure", Cabool Elementary, Calhoun Family, City of Cabool, Clark Drilling, Community First Banking Company, Country Mart, First Christian Church of Mtn. Grove, First Home Savings Bank, Grovespring Elementary, Hartville School, Legacy Bank "Bankers For a Cure", Luau For Life, Marianne's Warriors-Mtn. Grove Christian Academy, Kiwanis, Pay It Forward, Peterson Connection, Progressive Ozark Bank, St. John's Clinic, Emmanuel Baptist Church "Survivor's Camp", The Pink Gnomiators- Mtn. Grove Christian Academy, Town and Country Bank, Union Grove Freewill Baptist Church, Wal-Mart No. 0088, Wilder Elementary, Hartville FCCLA No. 1 and No. 2, and Wolf Creek Church.

Several awards were presented this year including those which qualified for the Fundraising Club: Gold (\$5,000 or more): Cabool Elementary, City of Cabool, and Clark Drilling ; Silver (\$3,000 or more): Western Dairy Transport, St. John's Clinic, Wilder Elementary, and Wolf Creek Church ; Bronze (\$1,500 or more): Country Mart, First Christian Church, First Home Savings Bank, Hartville Schools, Legacy Bank, Kiwanis, Peterson Connection, Progressive Ozark Bank, Emmanuel Baptist Church, and Town and Country Bank.

Other awards received included: Most Money Raised By a Single Team: Clark Drilling with \$9,508; Most Money Raised By An Individual: Jenny McKinney \$3,006; Spirit Award/Team Participation: The Pink Gnomiators- Mtn. Grove Christian Academy.

A special Thanks to the 2010 Wright County-Twin Cities Relay For Life Planning Committee: Dr. David Barbe and Debbie Barbe (Honorary Chairs), Aly Mays - American Cancer Society Staff Partner, Stephani White-Robertson, Event Chair, Lecia Short, Co-Chair, Jody Watts, Vicky Dooms, Stephanie Anderson, Margie Waara, Martha Driskell, Judy Chadwell, Amanda Owens, Arnold Larson, Liz Short, Linda Strunk, and Ashlynn Hultz. A huge "Thanks" to the Mountain Grove High School administration and maintenance staff for their help and support to make this event a success. Personal thanks to Bridgett Williams and Tom Johns.

The coordinators would also like to thank all those who gave of their time to support this great cause. These include Luminaria Helpers: Kathryn Coffman, Tracy Owens, Pam Owens, and Elaine James. Thanks to the Mountain Grove JROTC for all of their assistance. Survivor Helpers: Liz

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Short, Phyllis Long, Angela Walker, Beth Kuster, Peyton Walker, Linda Allen and Della Yeager. Thanks to the "Hush Angels": Gracie Anderson, Payton and Addison Walker. To First Home Savings Bank for all of their help and support to make this year's Relay a success, and a special thanks to Diana Emery for everything. Thanks to Kenneth Koontz, Randy Gaddis, Bill Gooch and Terry LeBaron for driving the golf carts to escort people into and out of the track. Also, a huge thanks to Gary Coy for being our sound man for the evening. Another huge Thank You to Mark Bujarski for his inspiring testimonies during both the Luminaria and Fight Back Ceremonies. Thanks also Judy Cantrell, Lt. Col. Lee Beamon, The Hartville School for their "Cans For A Cure" collection, Tom Johns, all of the Mtn. Grove Maintenance Staff, and the JROTC, Mountain Grove Police Department, St. John's Clinic, First Christian Church, Peterson Gravel and Ready Mix, Braxton Arroya, Kevin Garner, Wayne Robertson, Weston Robertson and all those individuals who took their time and care in making the "Love Throws" and slippers for our survivors, those from Cabool, Mountain Grove, Norwood, Mansfield, Hartville, Ava who donated money and/or material for quilts/throws, and all those businesses who donated prizes for the overnight event, and all those businesses placing the event on their business signs. And lastly, all of those who weren't already mentioned, it couldn't have been done without you!

For more information about Relay For Life and how to become involved, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit their website at www.cancer.org. Donations may continue to be mailed to the American Cancer Society, 3322 S. Campbell, Suite G, Springfield, MO 65807, Attn: Marti Helfrecht. Please note: Wright County-Twin Cities Relay For Life.

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