

Relay officials: 'We want you!'

Written by Gothenburg Times
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Fewer teams have Dawson County Relay For Life officials seeking individuals to join forces with Dawson County's cancer fighting army saying, "We want you."

The 16th Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life is set for Friday, July 30, at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park in Lexington.

The number of teams already signed up is down this year, said Pam Ackerman, publicity chairperson.

"Maybe it's the economy and maybe it's just the busy time of year," she said. "But you can bet cancer isn't taking a break, so we need to build up our forces."

An average of 111 people are diagnosed with cancer each year in Dawson County, according to American Cancer Society statistics. Of those, 54% received and benefited from ACS services and programs in 2009.

In the United States, 11 million cancer survivors celebrated another birthday this year thanks to the research, education, advocacy and patient services provided by ACS.

"Participants in Relay For Life are the grease that make the ACS cancer fighting wheels turn," Ackerman said. "There is still time for each one of us here in Dawson County to make a difference by building a team and participating in one of the most meaningful events of the summer—Relay For Life."

The team sign up has been extended to July 1. To join an existing team or start a new team, go to www.relayforlife.org/dawsoncove; and call Ackerman at 308-324-2230 for more details and team captain information.

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“It’s not too late! I know from experience that a person can raise \$100 in a week. In 2002, I joined a Relay For Life team two weeks before the event and raised \$200!” Ackerman said. “And the whole event is an inspirational journey of celebration, reflection and empowerment! You can make a difference.”

The next team captain meeting is Thursday at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church (17th and Polk Streets) in Lexington. All those interested are welcome to attend.