

Lap of Hope always emotional for participants, witnesses

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 04 August 2011 13:38 -



County's Relay for Life surpasses \$90,000 goal.

There is a time, during Dawson County's annual Relay for Life, that offers cancer survivors and their loved ones a time to let down their guard.

This year's event, at Haymaker Stadium in Cozad last Friday and Saturday, was no different.

Midway through the Lap of Hope, where cancer survivors and caregivers celebrate their victory over the disease and spirit and determination to fight cancer, they meet each other.

Survivors begin the lap in one direction and caregivers start in the opposite direction to join each other in the middle.

"This field has seen many battles," cancer survivor Dean Brand announced, "but none as big as why we are here tonight."

Brand, along with 22 teams totaling just under 300 participants, gathered for this year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Dawson County.

April Headley of Gothenburg, this year's event chairperson, said participants demonstrated their spirit and inspired hope.

"It was very touching and emotional for all of us," Headley said.

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The night kicked off with the Lap of Hope and the rest of the evening was filled with activities that included a silent auction, a Miss Relay competition, a bounce house for kids, deep-fried candy bars, live music and much more.

The night also included the emotional luminaria ceremony, after the sun went down, displaying the names and photos of those who battled cancer.

“The luminarias and luminaria ceremony is my favorite part of the night,” said finance chair Julie McNett. “It’s just so touching to see all the names. We’re fighting to try and make a difference.”

Saturday morning, McNett announced this year’s fund raising had exceeded the \$90,000 goal when \$95,528 was raised.

Officials said the 22 relay teams worked hard over the past several months to reach their individual and team goals.

Leading the teams was the FCCLA Pink ladies who, through their dedication and hard work, raised the most of any team, with a total of \$10,373.

Other top teams and individuals were:

Top 5 Adult Teams

1st—\$10,068.00, WCSG

2nd—\$6,304.80, Care’n For the One You Love

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3rd—\$6,229.19, The Church Ladies

4th—\$6,120.09, Plum Creek Medical Group

5th—\$5,317.76, Tri-County Hospital

Top 5 Youth Teams

1st—\$10,373.19, FCCLA Pink Ladies

2nd—\$4,634.82, RSCS/Cool Kids

3rd—\$2,847.85, Family Night Out For A Cure

4th—\$983.81, Rolling Meadows

5th—\$943.38, Horseshoe Bend 4-H Club

Top 5 Individuals

1st—\$1,892.61, Marilyn Hueftle

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2nd—\$1,400.00, Chris Barnes

3rd—\$1,290.00, Verla Montey

4th—\$1,250.00, Pam Ackerman

5th—\$1,135.93, Charlie Bean

Top 5 Youth Individuals

1st—\$828.29, Brianda Prado

2nd—\$729.48, Blanca Prado

3rd—\$722.70, Silvia Prado

4th—\$540.10, Alexis Marquardt

5th—\$503.60, Mariah Cote

School Year Award

Cozad—\$3,264

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Gothenburg—\$811

Lexington—\$769