

Relay For Life donations close to \$25,000 mark

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Teams needed for cancer-fighting event

Tighten those shoelaces, Dawson County.

Once June is over, the countdown begins for the 19th annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Dawson County.

This year's relay is July 12-13, from 6 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday at Lake Helen.

Already, teams and corporate sponsors have brought fund-raising close to \$25,000.

The goal is to raise \$100,000.

In Gothenburg, two teams are lacing up their shoes—a group from Peterson's Supermarket and the "Holy Walkamolies" from Gothenburg State Bank.

Relay officials describe fund raisers as going strong with more businesses throughout the county pitching in for one of the most talked-about events in the area, according to event chair Pam Ackerman.

"This celebration of life brings the community together in a unified effort to fight cancer and symbolizes the battle cancer patients face after they are diagnosed with the disease," Ackerman said.

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She describes Relay For Life as a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities to celebrate survivors and remember loved ones.

Teams of eight to 15 members gather to participate and raise funds for the American Cancer Society's research, education, advocacy and patient service programs.

"Cancer does not stop at nighttime so we're not going to stop at nighttime either," Ackerman said. "We hope the community will join us in this fight."

Cancer doesn't discriminate and affects everyone.

Like adults, she said younger generations want to fight back against the disease that has attacked a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, friend or even themselves, Ackerman said.

"Relay gives young adults the opportunity to be involved in the battle against cancer and lets them see through their own eyes why cancer research is so important," she said. "By fighting alongside adults committed to the cause, Relay effectively stimulates our next generation to address local issues and concerns, including cancer prevention and detection through collaborative efforts."

Other teams registered online at www.relayforlife.org/dawsoncone include BK Cancer Whopper Girls, The Lex Ladies, FCCLA Pink Ladies, Grace Lutheran Church, Lexington Regional Health Center, RSCS & Kool Kids, WCSG Garden of Hope, Warriors For Cancer, The Church Ladies, The Ribbons and Dawson County People First.

"Many team members bring their whole family to the Relay," Ackerman said. "It is a fun, exciting night for everyone of all ages."

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One of the biggest benefits may be the educational experience of learning about how to prevent cancer and the resources available for all cancer patients, she said.

“And, of course, everyone experiences the feeling they can make a difference in this world by fighting for a cure,” Ackerman said.

To learn more about the Relay event in Dawson County, contact Ackerman at 308-324-2230 or visit www.relayforlife.org/

dawsoncone.

For additional information on cancer, call the American Cancer Society’s 24-hour help line at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.