RELAY FOR LIFE OF McLEAN COUNTY ANNOUNCES HONORARY MALE & FEMALE ADULT SURVIVORS, HONORARY YOUTH AND SURVIVOR AT “KICKOFF” DINNER

Bloomington, Illinois – January 26, 2010 - Relay For Life of McLean County is pleased to introduce its Honorary Male, Honorary Female Adult, and Honorary Youth Survivors for its 2010 Relay. The following individuals were introduced at a “Kick-off” dinner for this year’s Relay, held at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center, Bloomington, on Jan. 23.

Meet Our Honorary Female Adult Survivor…Carla Painter: Carla, Bloomington, was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma (bone cancer) in May five years ago. She is celebrating three years of her Cancer being in remission. That is wonderful, considering hers was not a typical cancer for someone her age, so her treatment options were a challenge. Although her oncologist was in Chicago, where she had multiple surgeries, Carla said she considers herself lucky that she was able to receive treatments locally. Carla’s first Relay was seven years ago, to honor her father who she had lost to Cancer.

Meet Our Honorary Male Adult Survivor…Greg Jonas: Greg, Bloomington, was diagnosed with a Thymoma, which occurs in the thymus gland, and, in Greg’s case, triggered a condition known as Myasthenia Gravis. In 1999, the Thymoma came back throughout his chest cavity. He went through extensive radiation and chemotherapy, and has since then been Cancer free. Greg has been participating in Relay For Life since 2006, spending two years on a Relay team from Livingston County before joining the Survivor Committee of Relay For Life of McLean County.

Meet Our Honorary Youth Survivor…Rachel Trimpe: Five-year-old Rachel, daughter of Steve and Vicki Trimpe, Bloomington, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, specifically a germ cell tumor, in September 2005, at the age of 11 months. Her treatment consisted of surgery to remove the tumor and her right ovary and fallopian tube, and three rounds of chemotherapy. She received all of her treatment in Peoria through St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. Thanks to the treatments she received, Rachel has been Cancer-free for four years. She has been attending our Relay as a survivor ever since she was diagnosed. Tim and Vicki have spent several years being part of Relay teams.

Goals that Relay For Life of McLean County has set for 2010 are to have 170 teams of up to 15 people each at this year’s event. This year’s Relay For Life of McLean County will be held from noon to noon on June 25-26, 2010, at Normal Community West High School. Other goals for 2010 include seeing 500 survivors attend our event, and to raise $630,000. This year’s theme is “Celebrate More Birthdays.”

In 2009, Relay For Life of McLean County raised over $624,000. Since it began in McLean County in 1994, Relay For Life of McLean County has raised over $5 Million to fight Cancer. We are looking for more teams to help us join in the fight!

More information may be obtained by contacting either of our Event Co-chairs, Fran Massie at 309-664-1612 or Dede Verplaatse (VER-plates) 309-662-4890.

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