



# Relay For Life of Tacoma

Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> | 6PM – 6PM | Mt Tahoma High School

## The History of Relay For Life

In 1985, Tacoma's Dr. Gordon Klatt, a local colorectal surgeon, faced some difficult decisions as President of the American Cancer Society Pierce County Unit. Rather than cutting back programs, he opted to use his love of running to raise much needed funds. After training for eight months he took to the track at the University of Puget Sound for 24 hours. His goal was simple-raise awareness and funds in the fight against cancer. Dr. Klatt did that and so much more.

Over the course of 24 hours, he logged 88 miles and raised \$27,000 for support services and research. Two important things happened on that track-needed money was raised and HOPE was created in the fight against cancer. The next year, the event moved to Stadium Bowl and good friends like Pat Flynn joined the efforts, volunteer teams were invited to participate and Relay For Life was born.

Dr. Gordon Klatt passed away in August of 2014, after fighting his own battle with cancer. He will live on in our hearts and memories, and in our efforts to cure cancer. His vision of a grassroots effort to cure cancer continues and together we will finish the fight he began.

## What to Expect at a Relay For Life Event

Relay For Life is an inspirational, non-competitive, 24 hour fundraising event that brings together a community of volunteers with a common goal--to CURE cancer.

Over the course of 24 hours we **CELEBRATE** cancer Survivors, **REMEMBER** those lost to cancer, **FIGHT BACK** against a disease that has taken too much from too many, and raise the funds that WILL finish the fight against cancer.

Relay For Life has a festival-like atmosphere that students, families, co-workers, and friends can enjoy regardless of age or fitness level! At Relay, teams of all sizes, gather and take turns walking laps throughout the 24 hours. Each team keeps at least one member on the track at all times, while all around them the party is in full swing. Teams stay overnight in the decorated tent city and enjoy music, activities and entertainment.

## Why Relay?

- Our efforts are making a difference! Since 1991, there has been a 25% decline in the cancer death rate.
- We are celebrating over 15 million cancer survivors and are saving 400 lives a day
- Survival rates have increased from 1 in 3 to 2 in 3 people diagnosed, since Relay For Life began in 1985.
- The money raised funds vital research, patient services, education, and prevention.
- Thanks to our generous supporters and volunteers, we've invested \$4.5 billion in cancer research since 1946.
- 47 Nobel Prize-winning researchers have been funded by dollars raised at Relay For Life events.
- In 2016, 748 research grants totaling over \$406.8 million were funded nationwide. 24 of those grants totaling over \$10 million were right here in Washington State.

# The fight against cancer needs YOU!

There are many ways to get involved with Relay For Life of Tacoma:

## Start a Team

There is no cost to participate. You can start a team with your family, friends, co-workers, church group, or sports team. If you would like more information about starting a team, contact [teams@tacomarelay.org](mailto:teams@tacomarelay.org)

## Join a Team, or Participate as an Individual

If you know someone who already has a team, join them, or sign up to participate as an individual. Registration is free, and there is no required fundraising minimum, though we do ask each individual to raise \$100.

Visit [www.tacomarelay.org](http://www.tacomarelay.org) to sign up.

## Volunteer

It takes many hands to put on a Relay For Life event and we would love your help. Volunteer to help with Relay For Life of Tacoma special projects, throughout the year or 'day-of' the event, June 2-3, 2017.

We have volunteer opportunities for individuals, and groups looking to give back to their community. Additionally, we have opportunities for youth to earn community service hours. For more information about volunteering, contact [volunteer@tacomarelay.org](mailto:volunteer@tacomarelay.org)

## Walk as a Survivor

Anyone who has ever heard the words "You have cancer." is a cancer survivor. Survivors are our special guests at Relay For Life. They kick off our event with a celebratory lap around the track, celebrating their victory over cancer, and then enjoy a complimentary meal with their caregivers. All Survivors will receive a FREE t-shirt, Survivor Medal, and more.

When joining a team, please select the box that says, "SURVIVOR" to receive your Survivor goodies. If you are not joining a team, please visit [www.tacomarelay.org](http://www.tacomarelay.org) to sign up to walk in the Survivor Lap.

## Become an Event Sponsor

Event Sponsorship is a meaningful way for your business to get involved in the fight against cancer. We have sponsorship levels to fit every budget and would love the opportunity to discuss those opportunities with you.

For more information about Event Sponsorship contact [sponsorship@tacomarelay.org](mailto:sponsorship@tacomarelay.org)

## Dedicate a Luminaria

As darkness falls, we light Luminaria personalized in memory or honor of friends or loved ones who have been affected by cancer. Each Luminaria candle represents a person. They are our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, friends, coworkers, and so many others.

Visit [www.tacomarelay.org](http://www.tacomarelay.org) to dedicate a Luminaria and join us Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10PM as we light the Luminaria and remember all of those lives touched by cancer.

## Visit our Event

The community is encouraged to attend our event. Highlights include: Opening Ceremonies, Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6PM, followed by our Survivor Lap, and our Luminaria Ceremony, Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10PM. Various activities and entertainment will continue throughout the 24 hours. Our event is closed to the public between the hours of midnight-7am.

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6PM-6PM | Mt. Tahoma High School  
4634 S 74th St, Tacoma, WA

## For More Information

Visit our website: [www.tacomarelay.org](http://www.tacomarelay.org)  
Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tacomarelay](http://www.facebook.com/tacomarelay)  
Contact Us: [info@tacomarelay.org](mailto:info@tacomarelay.org)