Relaying The News

The Corner Chairs
Co-Chairs, BJ Allgaier & Cathy Goldthwaite

Welcome to the first edition of the 2009 Relay For Life of Greater Derry/Londonderry newsletter. Once again, Greta Cote has agreed to be our editor, publisher, columnist and advertising guru. She is also our Publicity Chair! Boy are we lucky. We have new folks joining us and some ‘seasoned’ veterans returning to the Planning Committee. We are organizing and filling some open positions. If you have an interest in joining the Planning Committee, please contact us. It takes many people to make Relay a success and we need all the help we can get! Relay 2008 was terrific and 2009 can be even greater.

Want some exciting news? We met all the criteria and have been named a New England All Star Relay! Thanks to all the hard work of the Planning Committee, Team Captains and the best team participants in the world. We also will receive the Purple Sneaker Award at the New Hampshire Relay Summit.

How will we top 2008? With creativity, hard work and the help of all the great people that made 2008 so wonderful. If we each encourage one more participant to join our team, find someone to start a new team, ask an employer to agree to matching funds, or get a local business to donate $100.00. If we can do those things we can blow the roof off 2008 in 2009!

Are you with us? We know you are. Get online now, register your team and start raising some of that good old Greater Derry/Londonderry mullah. It is never too early to start the fight against cancer.

Cathy and BJ
Co-Chairs

Relay 2008 Results!!!

What an absolutely amazing event! I don’t think there was anyone who attended Relay this year that would say it was anything short of an incredibly moving, entertaining, powerful and empowering!

We had 68 teams which was up 14 from 2007. We had 607 participants and 99 survivors!

Here’s the biggie. Are you ready? Relay 2008 raised a total of...

$200,865.21!!!

That’s an average of $2,953 per team or $330 per person!!

You should all be proud of your accomplishments! Together, we not only can, but HAVE done unbelievable things!

Let’s give Relay 2008 a run for its money this year!
Top Teams
As of 6/14/08
1 - Survivors Rule! ($12,546.25)
2 - The Believers ($11,039.67)
3 - Holding Strong ($9,657.81)
4 - Jacques’ Team ($7,870.00)
5 – BJ & Her Galaxy of Stars ($6,521.00)

Top Participants
1 – Barbara Dupont ($3,165.00)
2 - Melissa Carchia ($1,138.00)
3 – Alison Gumpert ($3,133.40)
4 – Vickie Sysyn ($3,092.00)
5 – Cheryl O’Neill ($2,668.50)

We Need YOUR Help!

Publicity – April Guilmet

Want to make lasting changes in the lives of local cancer patients? With 34 weeks to go before the 2009 event, Greater Derry/Londonderry Relay for Life committee could use some help.

On Oct. 5, members of the event’s organizing committee met at the Derry Public Library to discuss details for this year’s event, which will be held June 19-20 on the Pinkerton Academy track.

Last year’s Relay, an 18-hour, overnight event supporting cancer awareness and raising funds for research, drew 68 Relay teams, 607 participants and 99 survivors. This summer, event organizers hope they can gather even more survivors and participants, but they need some help.

According to event co-chair Cathy Goldthwaite, there are many open committee positions this year, with chairs being sought to assist with mission education, entertainment, advocacy, survivorship, recruitment and the Luminaria event, where participants light candles in remembrance of loved ones lost to cancer.

Goldthwaite and her co-chair, B.J. Allegaier, both said they felt optimistic, though warned, “we’d have no relay if these positions aren’t filled.” Their goal is to have the positions filled by the time they meet again on Nov. 19.

Generally, committee sub-chairs meet at the library on the third Wednesday of each month, while team captains attend monthly meetings of their own, beginning in February. For those who feel somewhat undaunted at the thought of such duties, organizers assured there is always someone available to mentor newcomers.

Though the location hasn’t been determined yet, the event’s official kick-off event will be held in late January.

“One goal is to reach out to more survivors,” Goldthwaite said. “We know there are so many more than the 99 we had last year.”

Another goal is to get more local students involved, with emphasis to reaching out to local high schools. Londonderry High School’s Relay team had over 50 participants last year. According to student Sarah Hersey, who attended the meeting, her school’s team grew so large that they would have to be divided into several teams this year.

However, event organizers hope they can tap into smaller communities, such as Atkinson, Sandown and Chester, ultimately drawing more participants both young and old. “Many of these are bedroom communities, but we know they are equally touched by cancer,” said development chair Bridget Ryan. “And in this economy, this is a time when people need the services we provide more than ever.”

The Greater Derry/Londonderry Relay for Life encompasses the western part of Rockingham County, though Salem hosts its own event. Allegaier said that recruiting teams and keeping them coming back, year after year, is a crucial component to the event’s continued success. “All of us are working towards team development,” she said. “Wherever we go, to our jobs, churches and schools, it’s an opportunity to talk to people about the Relay and maybe even get them to form a new team.”

The event has so far shown a definite pattern of success. In 2006, Relay for Life event raised over $164,000; in 2007, the event raised well over $200,000.

According to Allegaier, 14 new teams signed on for last year’s Relay, and she’s hoping even more so hop on board this year.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States and the nation’s leading health concern. An estimated 2,640 people will die of cancer in the state this year. However, thanks to advances in research, early detection, and treatment, 66% of all cancer patients now survive five years or more.
The American Cancer Society is currently focused on reaching its “2015” set of goals, which essentially are to achieve 5.7 million fewer cancer cases by the year 2015, and 4.9 million fewer cancer-related deaths.

Those interested in helping out with this year’s Relay should know, Allegraier stressed, that funds raised by Relay are used to help people within the local community: coworkers, loved ones and friends. If you’d like to learn more about getting involved in this year’s Relay For Life, call 471-4113 or send emails to Brigit Ryan at brigit.ryan@cancer.org.

Additional information is also available by visiting the event’s Web site at relayforlife.org/derryandlondonderrynh.

Modell’s Supports Relay Again!

Publicity Chair – Greta Cote

Modell’s has agreed to allow us to do another Team Week shopping period from Black Friday, November 26th – December 25th. We made over $200 the last time we had our Team Week Shopping period back in June.

Remember we will receive the following perks with this coupon:

• Save 10% off all regular and sale merchandise!
• Receive 5% back of purchases made during your “Team Weeks” shopping period*.
• Earn MVP points while supporting The Relay!

Keep in mind that the coupon can be used as many times as you want during the period above at all stores listed on the coupon. You can email them to friends and family as well as photocopy them.

We are NOT allowed to pass the coupons out in store or in the parking lot of Modell’s. If we are caught doing so we will jeopardize our fundraising efforts.

“We must collectively spend a minimum of $1500 total during the 28 day shopping period to receive a donation.

See the coupon the on last page of the newsletter.

Your Stories

Publicity Chair – Greta Cote

Survivor Stories Wanted!

Are you a survivor? Have an incredible story? Did ACS help you when you had cancer? We want to interview you and publish your story in the newsletter.

Contact April Guilmet at msaprilann@mac.com

My Reason to Relay!

We all participate in the Relay For Life for different reasons and different things inspire each of us to do what we do every year. Tell us why you Relay!

Fundraisers!

If you’re having a fundraising event and want to tell people about it…send us the info and we’ll be sure to feature it in the newsletter and even try to get some media press if it is a big event.

If you’ve had a really successful event or have tips for others feel free to email us those as well!

We are here to communicate information that will help our Relay be more successful feel free to email us with ideas or topics as well.

Contact Greta at RelayForLifeNH@gmail.com.
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