# Relay for Life of Seneca County Newsletter

December 2014

2015 Relay Theme: **A Cure is Born** (movie theme)
www.relayforlife.org/senecacountyny

## Dates to Remember:

**Jan 12 - *Committee Meeting*** 6:00 @ Community Center

**Feb 2 - *Committee Meeting*** 6:00 @ Community Center

**Feb 26 – *Kick Off*** place and time TBA

**March 2 - *Committee Meeting*** 6:00 @ Community Center

**April 6 - *Committee Meeting*** 6:00 @ Community Center

**May 4 - *Committee Meeting*** 6:00 @ Community Center

**June 1 - *Bank Night*** place and time TBA

**June 5 – *Relay***

**Relay for Life of Seneca County**
**Friday, June 5, 2015**
**3:00 PM**
**Mynderse Academy Senior High**
**(105 Troy St, Seneca Falls, NY)**

## Fundraisers*:

Knight Walkers will be having a **Christmas Cookie, Craft & Raffle Sale** on Saturday, **December 13 @ Seneca Office Products** during "It's A Wonderful Life"

*Please submit your fundraisers to Ginny at glott57@gmail.com to be included in the newsletter!

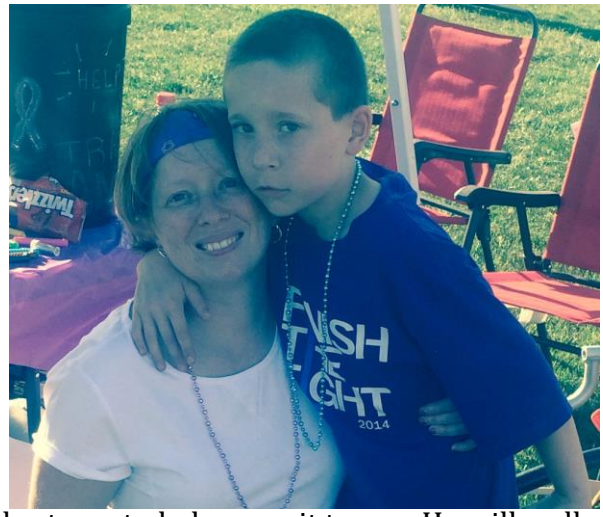
## Monthly letter:

My Reason to Relay

It was a Friday night when Caleb woke me up because he was coughing. It was a very croupy cough I had not heard from him before. I called the ER and they said bring him in right away. We went, they listened to him said he had a touch on pneumonia, gave us some medicine and sent us back home. Saturday he seemed ok so we thought it all was over. Sunday he was worse. We went back to the ER, they did x-rays and said the pneumonia was worse. They changed his antibiotic and put him on Tylenol and Motrin every 3 hours. By Monday, he was worse again, even with the medicine, I could not get his fever under 103.00. I went back to the ER and Caleb was admitted for monitoring overnight. During the evening the pediatrician on call ordered a CT scan. My husband and I thought that was

weird but maybe they would figure out what was going on. By Tuesday morning, they had ordered a 2nd CT scan. A short time later the doctor and the nurse came in, the nurse said can I hold your baby while you talk to the doctor. We knew something was wrong. We went to a room with a note on the door that read "do not enter, parent meeting in progress". I was terrified. This was my baby; he was only 10 months old, what could be wrong. The doctor sat us down and said what they thought was pneumonia was a tumor growing behind Caleb's lungs. She believed it was Neuroblastoma. We of course said well, "what's that"? Dr Robbins said with tears in her eyes, "that's cancer". No parent ever wants to hear those words about their child. So our next question, what do we do, will he survive? Dr. Robbins said we were lucky, we caught it very early. He is only 10 months old, which was a vital fact for Caleb. The survival rate was over 90% if caught under the age of 12 months. We had hope.

From that point things moved very quickly for us. We were transported to a children's hospital within a few hours and within 2 days Caleb was in surgery to remove the tumor. This is where our story gets better. Our case was pretty simple and they were able to get Caleb's entire tumor out, he did not require chemotherapy or radiation. Caleb is 11 now and goes for checkups every 2 years and continues to do wonderful.




I relay for Caleb. I relay for every parent who has to hear the words "Your child has cancer". We are well aware of how blessed we are and we know not every story is as positive as ours. We want to help with research and awareness so that there are more stories like Caleb's.

I often think why did this happen to us? I firmly believe that this happened because Caleb is an inspiration to people. He loves the Relay for Life and refers to it as his walk. He pushes our team to do more fundraising and volunteers to help recruit teams. He will walk the entire event if I would let him and he does this using a walker due to his cerebral palsy. He inspires me and my team to do better and to do our part to make Relay a success. Caleb's passion to help this cause is amazing and contagious.

This is why I relay.

## New at Relay this year:

The survivor dinner will be held at 5:00, before the Survivor Lap