

Relay For Life Facts

History

The Relay For Life began in 1985 Tacoma, Washington when Dr. Gordon Klatt walked around a track for 24 hours raising \$27,000.00 for the American Cancer Society. Relay For Life was born.

It's Extraordinary

Anyone who has stepped foot onto a track at Relay For Life has felt the impact that a single event can have on a community. Imagine, then, the power of nearly 4,800 communities across the nation united in a single cause. It is more than a fundraiser – Relay *is* the American Cancer Society. Relay For Life allows us to celebrate the lives of cancer survivors, remember those who have lost the battle, and fight back against cancer.

Why 24 hours?

We are asking you to give a day out of your life for those who may not have another. There are similarities between the Relay For Life and a cancer patient's experience: It may get really hot during the day, and you may feel like quitting, but you keep on walking. It may get windy and cold at night – it might even rain. But, you press on through the darkest hours knowing that the sun will come up and it will be a new day. Cancer never sleeps so for one day, neither do we.

It's Nationwide and It's Growing!

You are part of something BIG. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is the largest annual not-for-profit fundraising event in the world. In 2007, more than 3 million Relay participants heard the messages of the American Cancer Society in the United States, and the 500,000 survivors in attendance inspired us. Nearly 4,700 communities held Relay For Life events here in the United States and 23 International countries came aboard the Relay train as well.

The Time Is Now!

The fight against cancer can't wait or slow down even for one moment. We are making tremendous progress in our fight against cancer, and we still have a long way to go. Your involvement with the American Cancer Society is helping to save lives, and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their families.

The Facts About Funds Raised

The American Cancer Society fights cancer on four fronts: Research, Education, Advocacy, and Service. A portion of every dollar raised goes to our National American Cancer Society to support our

24-hour, toll-free information service, 1-800-ACS-2345 and our website www.cancer.org. Our 1-800# is a call center set with cancer specialists waiting for calls from the newly diagnosed, caregivers, survivors and family members. Our website has the most comprehensive cancer information out there so anyone touched by cancer can quickly find information, comfort and support. This service allows people in ANY community to turn to the American Cancer Society and get the answers they need.

Our National dollars also support the American Cancer Society Research Program –We have 938 grants worth \$450 million dollars. You should know that the American Cancer Society has been involved with EVERY major cancer breakthrough to date. We are proud to say we have funded 42 Nobel Prize Laureates and provide prevention and detection guidelines, which are FACT, based – we have science behind us and we are proud of it!

Our recent Advocacy efforts have resulted in 25 states going Smoke Free!

Our local programs and services are for cancer patients and their families and are growing every year. The money raised has helped set up 12 Look Good Feel Better Programs in South Jersey– programs that help female patients feel beautiful again, overcome treatment side effects and restore their self-esteem.

The money raised through Relay For Life enabled us to provide over 1,000 rides through our Road to Recovery program – free transport to and from treatments

Our Man-to-Man supports groups continue to grow as well to support those diagnosed with prostate cancer, with a new support group starting up in August of this year in Salem County.

Every week we have on average 3 patients, who visit our Cherry Hill office to receive wigs, turbans and other help with items such as bras and prosthesis. Our other resource centers at the Cape May Court House, Shore Memorial Hospital, and our Absecon office continue to serves patients as well.

Our Reach to Recovery Program continues to be a very important program for all women diagnosed with Breast Cancer. We connect with five to ten women each week providing valuable information and other items that can help them on their journey.