

American Cancer Society
Relay For Life of Gurnee/Wadsworth

Relay News



Happy New Year!!

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New Year...New Co-Chairs

On the Right Track:

- Comprehensive cancer information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through 1.800.ACS.2345 or www.cancer.org.
- The Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

This year we have two new Co-Chairs, Amanda Harmer and Betsy Barnich.

Amanda Harmer is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in Recreation Management. Although she now lives in Round Lake with her husband, CJay, Amanda grew up in Gurnee. She has been involved with the Relay For Life since 2001 when she attended the Relay in Grayslake with her now co-chair, Betsy. Amanda decided to be a co-chair this year because she feels this is the best way for her to help to find a cure for this horrible disease that affects so many people. She knows the affects all too well, personally having lost two great-uncles, her best friend, and another friend to cancer. While the part of Relay that has always been most memorable for Amanda has been the Survivors Lap because it is so evident that cancer doesn't discriminate against age, race or gender, Luminaria is always the part that she looks most forward to. As for this year's Relay, Amanda is most excited about reaching the total fundraising goal that has been set!

Amanda's advice for Team Captains: "Don't be afraid to ask! Whether it is asking the

committee for help, ideas to fundraise, or asking your family and friends to donate. Don't let your fear keep you from raising money to find a cure."

Betsy Barnich is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a veteran fundraiser. In addition to her work with the Relay For Life she has been involved with the Concert for Life, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and The March of Dimes. Betsy first attended the Relay in 2001 and began serving on the committee in 2002. She was asked to attend that first Relay by her best friend, Kate, who passed away three years ago after bravely fighting for two and a half years, and continues to be a huge driving force for Betsy's involvement with the Relay. It was because of Kate's passion for the Relay that Betsy has stepped up to be a co-chair this year as she believes it's the next step for her to ensure someday we will no longer have to the Relay. For her the most meaningful part of the Relay is looking around the track in those late night/early morning hours and seeing people still walking and knowing that they share the same commitment to this cause. Betsy thinks that her experience, energy, and enthusiasm along

with the committee and all the amazing team captains will make this year the "best Relay ever!" She believes we will not only meet our goals, but hopes that everyone will make some unbelievable memories along the way too. Although she wouldn't give any details Betsy says we can be on the lookout for some different activities and a little different feel to some of our old ceremonies.

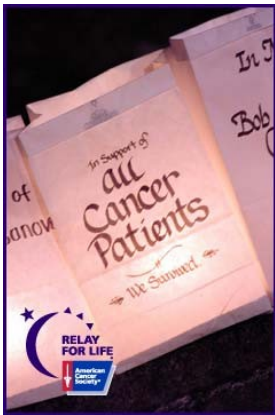
Betsy's advice for Team Captains: "WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!! Amanda and I, along with Stephanie and the committee, are at your disposal so please, do not be afraid to contact us.

Whether you're unsure of something or in need of a little encouragement, we'll get you what you need!"

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Its about being a community
that takes up a fight...



New Year...New Goals

2005 was a HUGE success

Totals for Relay For Life of Gurnee/Wadsworth 2005:

- **Dollars raised \$177,000**
- **Survivors attended: 83**
- **Participating Teams: 71**
- **Luminaria purchased: 1700**
- **Sponsors: 6**

We HOPE 2006 will be even bigger

Goals for Relay For Life of Gurnee/Wadsworth 2006:

- **Dollars raised \$250,000**
- **Survivors attended: 120**
- **Participating Teams: 100**
- **Luminaria purchased: 2000**
- **Sponsors: 10**

New Year...New ACS Staff Partner

New to our Relay this year is our ACS Staff Partner, Stephanie Russell. Stephanie has been with ACS as an Income Development Representative for six months. In addition to the Gurnee Relay, she has worked on Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and the Lake County Gala for ACS. Before coming to ACS she worked at Alexian Brother Medical Center and the DuPage County health Department. It was her past experience in working in the health promotion and health education field and her belief in the mission of ACS that made her de-

cide to focus her career on helping find a cure.

Stephanie is very excited to be part of the part of our Relay and is looking forward to working with all the dedicated and passionate individuals on the committee through out the year and then watching everything unfold on July 15th. She believes that her enthusiasm, motivation and passion will be her greatest asset when it comes to helping the committee meeting the goals set for the 2006 Relay.

At Relay, the Luminaria ceremony is the most meaningful to Stephanie

because it truly represents why we are working together towards... finding a cure. Stephanie's advice to team captains... It is very important to mentor your team members and set high goals for them "The higher your reach, the more money you will raise!" Always ask for new ways to fundraise or if you need any new ideas or assistance, we are here for you!

New Year...New Hope for Survivors

I was asked to write a small piece on what survivors mean to Relay...it made me think back to the first Relay I went to... I was just finishing up my own chemo treatments and a friend of my husbands asked him to join their team. While they were setting up their campsite I sat with my bandana on and watched the flurry of activity around me. All of a sudden a woman came up behind me and asked if I had registered at the Survivor's tent and whisked me away. I tried explaining to her that I had not finished with my treatments and was *not yet* a survivor. "Nonsense!! You have survived hearing the words YOU HAVE CANCER, made it through surgery I'm guessing, and now how many treatments of chemo have you survived?!" She reg-

istered me, signed me up in the raffle, had me sign a banner, and told me about the survivor lap and then the caregiver lap to follow. I remember feeling overwhelmed and relieved at the same time. I met lots of others who had survived this dreaded disease that day and night. They were smiling, had hair again, had rosy cheeks, and energy, and I knew I really was going to be okay again soon. Now it has been six years since my first diagnosis and one and a half since the second time. I was feeling like it is time to move on and get over this cancer thing. The problem is if I can help someone feel like it will get better, that they can make it to the next treatment, or even that your hair does grow back even-

tually and if you don't like the color it

comes in, get some high lights. So, I just want to say to all the survivors out there. We need you at Relay. You are the light at the end of the tunnel, the rays of hope that the research is working and that with the help of family, friends, doctors, nurses, our community, any thing is possible. So please register as a survivor, share a piece of cake with a fellow courageous friend and let's show the world that we will win the battle against this thing called cancer once and for all! Can't wait to meet you all! *Heidi*



New Year...New Fundraising Ideas

Art Sales
Babysitter Service
Bake Sale
Bike Rides
B-I-N-G-O
Book Sale
Bowl-a-thons
Candy Sales
Car washes
Coin Drive
Cookbooks
Cookie Dough Sales
Dog Wash

Flower Sales
Garage Sales
Golf Outing
Pancake Breakfasts
Pizza Sales
Spaghetti Dinner
Sports Tournaments
These are just a FEW ideas of fundraisers that can be done anytime of the year. Watch future newsletters for ideas for On-Site Fundraising Ideas.

For more ideas or if you have questions, please contact the Fundraising Chair.

And we hope that you will all use this Newsletter to share information about any fundraisers your team is doing so that we may spread the word and be able to support all our teams! Email information about your fundraiser(s) to GurneeRelay@aol.com to have it included in a future newsletter.

Schedule of Events

- Team Captains are encouraged to attend events in **bold!**
- Jan 17th, 7:00pm: Committee Meeting @ Village Hall
 - Feb 21st, 7:00pm: Committee Meeting @ Village Hall
 - **Mar 1st, 7:00pm: Kick-Off @ InLaws**
 - Mar 21st, 7:00pm: Committee Meeting @ Village Hall
 - April 18th, 7:00pm: Committee Meeting @ Village Hall
 - **TBD: Team Captains Mtg "Fun-draising" for Relay**

New year...New Teams, New Sponsors

In order to meet our goals this year we will need the help of all our wonderful team captains.

Begin now asking people to start a team, 2006 Team Registration forms are available now through any committee member.

Encourage any Survivors you

might know to sign-up and attend this years Relay. Survivors need not be part of a team to come out and be honored, as they are the REASON we Relay. For more information on Survivor activities contact the Survivorship Chair.

If you know of a company that would be interested in being a Corporate Sponsor please contact Betsy Barnich with their information.

And of course, its never to early to start fundraising or selling Luminarias.



*There is no finish line
until we find a cure.*



New Fundraising Club Levels for 2006

The American Cancer Society has revised and added to the Fundraising Clubs Levels for the 2006 Relay season. Please take a look at the new levels and how they relate to your goals. (New or revised)

Bronze Club	\$2,000	Diamond Club	\$20,000
Silver Club	\$4,000	Diamond+ Club	\$25,000
Gold Club	\$6,000	Purple Club	\$30,000
Gold+ Club	\$8,000	Purple+ Club	\$40,000
Platinum	\$10,000	National Club	\$50,000
Platinum+ Club	\$15,000		

New Year... New Technology

This year our Relay will have the ability to utilize an online fundraising option.

This year teams will be able to sign up on-line for a customizable website. Each team member will be able to have an individual webpage and be able to send emails to potential donors who will then be able to donate online!

Come to the Kick-Off on March 1st for more information and get started!!

Join our Committee!!

**Our next meeting will be at 7:00pm on
January 17th @ Gurnee Village Hall**

Have Questions?

Please feel free to contact one of our Co-Chairs or our ACS Staff Partner if you have any questions:

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American Cancer Society
Relay For Life
A Team Event to Fight Cancer

