

Relay For Life fights for a cure

Written by Gothenburg Times
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Dawson County fought back against cancer by raising \$70,648 to help “Round Up A Cure” at the 19th Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Dawson County Friday at Lake Helen.

“We fought back harder than ever this weekend,” said Pam Ackerman, event chairperson. “When we started planning several months ago, we said that we’re going to fight a disease that never sleeps. Not only did we stay up all night on this one day, but we worked hard all year long to make this event happen.

“We do it because we have all been touched by cancer. On behalf of Relay For Life, I’d like to thank all the teams, sponsors, survivors, caregivers, and participants who came together to make this Relay such a success.”

Relay For Life is a community event full of great individual ideas, Ackerman said.

“It is the individual who steps up with a new idea that makes each Relay extra special. This year we celebrated 40 years of being a cancer survivor during a rousing lap of family and friends and we watched in awe as bicycling enthusiasts sped around the walking trail with lights flashing on their wheels,” Ackerman said. “We welcomed the gifts of more than 200 pink potted plants and enjoyed an unexpected donation of fresh fruit and watermelon. I can’t begin to name everyone who contributed their extra special touch. It is a rewarding experience to watch things like this happen.”



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The top five teams alone raised more than half of the money raised with a combined total of \$43,587. Top fundraising teams were Women's Cancer Support Group (\$15,414.74), FCCLA Pink Ladies (\$14,220.85), Lexington Regional Health Center (\$5,062.12), RSCS—Relatively Speaking, Cancer Sucks (\$4,772) and The Church Ladies (\$4,117.75).

Top five fundraising individuals were: Pam Ackerman, Lexington (\$2,271); Bonnie Hansen, Cozad (\$1,949.15); Verla Montey, Cozad \$1,620; Peg Butler, Cozad, \$1,245; and Chris Barnes, Cozad (\$1,195). All were recognized as members of the "Grand Club" for raising \$1,000 or more.

Other Grand Club recognition went to Jan Lichtenwalter, Brenda Bierman, Bea King, Hailey Wagener and Ron King, all of Lexington.

Corporate sponsor monetary donations totaled \$11,700. Many donations of goods and services also were received. Sponsors included:

Sword of Hope, \$1000 and more—ServiceMaster of Mid-Nebraska, Homestead Bank, Orthman Family Foundation, Car Bar Cattle Company.

Platinum, \$500 to \$999—Davis Family Dental LLC, Lex Regional Health Center, The Feed Store/Cooper's Best Flour, Security First Bank, Platte Valley Auto Mart, First Bank & Trust Co, Bradley E Brandenburg & Assoc

Gold, \$250 to \$499—Arlan Ackerman Construction, Lexington Clipper-Herald, David Hult MD PC, Eustis Body Shop, Plum Creek Motors, Barmore Drug Store, Roof Pros LLC.

Silver, \$100 to \$249—Jerrold A Remmenga DDS, PC, Randy's & Brian's Towing, The Andersons, Mac's Short Stop, Nebraskaland Tire Co, The Home Agency, Gothenburg State Bank, Blase-Strauser Memorial Chapel, O'Hanlon Seed Inc, First State Bank of Gothenburg, State Farm—Heidi Bazata, Zook's Welding Shop, Daniel D. McClenahan, DDS, PC, Downey Drilling Inc, Dairy Queen, Overton Veterinary Services, Design Homes Inc, Kirby Plumbing Inc, Lexington Family Eyecare.

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Bronze, \$50 to \$99—Linden's Plumbing, Shotkoski Hay Co, Designer Craft Woodworking, Inc, Eustis 66 Service Inc, Rodeway Inn, Baldwin Filters, Farm Bureau Insurance, CBS Real Estate of Cozad, Drive-In Videos.

In-kind sponsors—Culligan, Sign Pro, Walmart, Johnny On The Spot, Mike's Sanitation.

Committee members for 2013 were: Chairperson/publicity—Pam Ackerman of Lexington; finance chairperson—Julie McNett of Cozad; survivor/caregiver co-chairs—Chris and Lynn Barnes of Cozad; logistics and music—Mike and Chris Wolff, Gothenburg; luminaria ceremony—April, Mallory and Shelby Headley of Eustis and Shaun Stevens of Gothenburg; advocacy—Richard Johnson of Lexington; silent auction—Roger and Sandy Anderson of Brady; breakfast burritos—Blanca Prado, Cozad; Miss Relay—Mariah Cote, Cozad; online/web page—Candi Sartin, Cozad; ACS mission—Christina Wagener, Lexington; corporate sponsor—Meredith Chesley, Lexington; photography—Marilyn Hueftle, Lexington; Locks of Love—Tiffany Carlson, Lexington; stage decorations—Reins 'N Manes 4-H Club, Cozad.

2013 Relay For Life team captains and teams: Jennifer Norseen and Kelly Schmeeckle, Peterson's Supermarket; Laura Kelly and Sara Sims, BK Cancer Whopper Girls; Myranda Ihde, The Lex Ladies; Kathy McReynolds, Warriors of Hope; Trish Bennett, The Ribbons; Christopher Davis, The Knights of Hope; Stephanie Ricley, Holy Walkamolies; Blanca Prado, FCCLA Pink Ladies; Richard Johnson, Grace Lutheran; Amanda Fischer-Penner, Lexington Regional Health Center; Chris Barnes, R.S.C.S. and Kool Kids; Julie McNett, The Church Ladies; Becky Gibbens, Becky's Buckaroos; Anita Hueftle, Rolling Meadows; and, Pam Ackerman, W.C.S.G. Garden of Hope.

Next year marks 20 years of Relay For Life in Dawson County. Anyone interested in being the event chairperson or being on the committee is encouraged to call Ackerman at 308-324-2230 or Jill Tetherow, ACS community manager—development, in North Platte at 308-532-4485.