

You can help 'save birthdays'

Written by Pam Ackerman

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Think back to your best birthday ever—was it roasting hotdogs at the lake or swinging at the park? Maybe it was a surprise party with balloons or a new car in the driveway? Birthdays form some of our fondest memories and we all want as many birthdays as possible for ourselves and our loved ones. But cancer steals birthdays and one out of three people will face a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime.

You can help "Save The Birthdays" with a tax-deductible donation to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life in your community. Every year, more than 4 million people come together at Relay For Life events around the world to support ACS and help finish the fight against cancer. Dawson County is celebrating 20 years of Relay For Life on Friday, July 25, at Lake Helen in Gothenburg. To find an event near you, go to relayforlife.org.

For more than 100 years, the society has led the way in fighting back against this disease. Your support will help save the most lives from cancer and provide the most support to those facing the disease. As the official sponsor of birthdays, the society is committed to finishing the fight against cancer.

Last year, ACS provided 16,500 rides to treatment and patient navigators helped close to 89,000 people understand their cancer diagnosis and find the help they needed. In 2012, ACS saved 41,000 patients and their caregivers more than \$26 million in lodging costs by providing a free place to stay when they have to travel for treatment.

The American Cancer Society is the largest non-governmental funder of cancer research in the United States. As such, ACS invests \$148 million each year in lifesaving research. Since 1946, more than \$3.9 billion has been invested in cancer research that has helped confirm the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, establish the link between obesity and multiple cancers, and develop drugs to treat leukemia and advanced breast cancer, among many other breakthroughs.

Nearly 14 million people in the U.S. who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year, thanks in part to the progress we are making together. Take action now! Help save the birthdays! You'll be giving someone another year to celebrate!

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If you are looking for someone to make a difference, take a look in the mirror!

Pam Ackerman, event chairperson