

Celebrating



Relay for Life raises \$125,000+

Survival



Community support makes Relay For Life a success

By Jeanette Kearley
Choctaw Co. publicity
Chairperson

BUTLER -- On behalf of the more than 1.3 million people who will be diagnosed with cancer this year, the American Cancer Society would like to thank the hundreds of dedicated individuals, generous contributors, and organizers of the recent Relay For Life in Choctaw County. This successful event raised \$125,000. + for the American Cancer Society's research, education, advocacy and patient support programs. The final dollar amount is yet to be determined as funds are still coming in. The event was held Friday, May 11, in Butler, Vanity Fair Complex.

"Our community really came together for this cause and we are so grateful for that support," said Ron Mason, Relay

For Life chair. "I want to thank everyone who gave of their time, talent and resources to help those touched by cancer."

The theme this year was "Super Heroes Fighting Cancer". Everyone who helped this year are truly "Super Heroes".

Starting with a Survivors Dinner and entertainment held at First Assembly of God, more than 150+ cancer survivors were given a police escort to Vanity Fair Complex. The survivors then kicked off the event by leading the first lap of the overnight event, followed by a caregivers' lap. Following the opening laps, 27 teams were introduced and then participated by staying on the track relay-style for the 12-hour event. At night, luminaria lined the track in honor of those living with cancer and in memory of those who lost their battle with

the disease. A touching ceremony recognized and remembered those who have been touched by cancer. 1409 luminaria was sold this year, setting a new record. The "Hope" and "Dora" luminaria this year was sponsored by Silas Baptist Church and many friends and family members. For more information about sponsoring the "Hope" luminaria next year, contact Vicki Breland at 205-459-2995.

All through the night many activities kept everyone entertained and on their toes.

Several awards were given to recognize outstanding achievement by participants and teams. They included:

The first Veteran Volunteer Award: Kim Edwards

Rookie Award: In Memory of Mary Mazingo,

Henry T. Volunteer Service Award: Mrs. Kim

Edwards
The Spirit of Relay: The Butler Volunteer Fire Department

Cure Club Recipients (Individuals who raised a minimum of \$1,000.00 for their Relay team): Dean Webb, Kim Edwards, Melissa Skelton, Sport Wilson, Larry Roberts, Bruce Taylor, Elizabeth Wallace, Jonathan Clark, Brandy Taylor, Lois Chapman, Dora Whitted, Doris Jackson, Nikki Lambert, Rita Jo Sheffield, Joan Manley, Becky Smith, Lavon "Shorty" Bonner, Mary Coody, Janice Todd, Jane Andrews, Suellyn Norwood, Donna Phillips, Georgia Dozier, Chuck Downing

Most Money Raised by an Individual: 1st - Mrs. Doris Jackson, 2nd - Mrs. Lavon "Shorty" Bonner, 3rd - Mrs. Dora Whitted

Most Money Raised by a Team: Butler Volunteer Fire Department

Most Money Raised by a Friends and Family Team: Gilbertown Family and Friends

Most Money Raised by a School Team: South Choctaw Academy

Most Money Raised by a Business Team: Regions Bank

Most Money Raised by a Church Team: Isney Baptist

Most On-Line Support: Lemon-Aide Friends
Best Cancer Facts: 1st - Mosley Bridge Congregational Methodist Church, 2nd - Isney Baptist Church, 3rd - Lemon-Aide Friends

Best Camp Site - 1st - Hound's-Tooth Helpers, 2nd - Regions Bank, 3rd - Jimmerson Family

Super Hero Tricycle Race: 1st - Department of Human Resources, 2nd - New Hope, 3rd - BVFD

Super Hero Midnight Snack: 1st - Helping Hands, 2nd - BVFD, 3rd - First United Security Bank

Super Hero Variety Show: 1st Calvary Baptist Youth, 2nd - Helping Hands, 3rd - Regions Bank

Super Hero Fashion Show: 1st Lemon-Aide Friends, 2nd Mosley Bridge Congregational Methodist Church, 3rd Morgan Chapel Youth

Super Hero Tug-of-War: 1st - Department of Human Resources, 2nd - Silas First Baptist, 3rd - BVFD

For more information about Relay For Life, contact the American Cancer Society toll-free anytime at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org. The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service.