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May's Brownsburg Relay for Life to unite community in cancer fight

FUNDRAISING

By Marty Spitz
The largest fundraising event in Hendricks County,

the Brownsburg Relay For Life, will take place this year on May 21-22, from 9:30 a.m. Saturday to 12:30 a.m. Sunday, at the Brownsburg Town Hall, 61 N. Green St.

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and help fund cancer research. At community gatherings, teams and individuals camp out at a school, park or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path.

As of mid-April, 27 teams and 371 participants have raised \$47,705 toward their team totals for the Brownsburg Relay for Life. The hope is to raise more than \$120,000 through this year's event and fundraising season.

Attendance is free for this family-friendly event. The celebration will include games, entertainment and activities for 15 straight hours.

"Games" is this year's theme, so each team will have a game-themed booth set up with items for sale, fun activities, food and more, and will take turns walking around the track during the event to support their efforts.

In addition, the event will feature several ways to honor cancer survivors and their caregivers, including a pampering area, a special survivor lap and Survivor Dinner, sponsored by Scotty's Brewhouse, Brownsburg.

A special luminaria ceremony will take place at 10 p.m. Participants will line the track with luminaries (sacks lit from within) representing those who are fighting or who have lost their fight with cancer.

Several local businesses have sponsored the event directly, through team sponsorships, event hosting or in-kind donations. Brownsburg schools students also get involved with fundraising, and last year 16 school/youth teams raised nearly \$75,000 for the event, more than half of the total funds raised. At the Relay, teachers and administrators will be in the dunk tank throughout the day.



Submitted Photo

Brownsburg West Middle School "West Warriors" Relay for Life team builds their Chain of Hope, and it's still growing. For this year's Relay, each team was challenged to create a Chain of Hope by writing on strips of paper inspiring messages for cancer survivors or the names of people they are supporting in fighting cancer. The goal is to have a chain long enough to completely encircle the Relay track at the Town Hall the day of the event. Teams are competing for the longest chain of Hope, with the winner receiving funds toward their team goal. The Chain of Hope is a common activity throughout the world for Relay For Life.



Submitted Photo

David Prairie being interviewed by Al Kellstadt about his team's efforts to fight back against cancer at Relay 2015. Prairie was dressed as Captain America to support the 2015 Relay theme of "Superheroes".

Brownsburg Relay will post other fundraising events on its Facebook and Twitter pages as they receive the information, or as the events draw near.

For more information, to donate or to sign up to participate, visit <http://www.relayforlife.org/brownsburgin>, Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/RelayForLifeBrownsburgIndiana/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/relay4lifebburg>) or contact Peggy Davis at 317-344-7835 or peggy.davis@cancer.org.

Some of the event's activities include:

- 9:30 a.m., opening ceremony and team parade
- 10-11 a.m., White Lick Elementary Juggling Masters
- 11 a.m.-noon, Cardinal Kicks Dance Group (100 students) and ORF Musical Group (40 students)
- 12-1 p.m., Bethesda Christian School Choir

- 1-2 p.m., Brownsburg East Middle School Talent Show
- 2-3 p.m., XL ENTertainment with DJ EEZYRIDER (Karaoke for Dollars)
- 5-6 p.m., Survivor Dinner and Celebratory Survivor Lap (5:45 p.m.)
- 6-7 p.m., Davey and the Rhythm Kings, a local blues band featuring David Moore, John Plachta and Ron Brown
- 7-8 p.m., GTR (Guys That Rock), a local variety band featuring Ron Brown, Cleo Brown, Greg Easter, Jim Hornaday and Adam Stambaugh. Elvis impersonator Sam Ingram will make an appearance with the band.
- 8-9 p.m., GTR (Guys That Rock) will continue, featuring special guest guitarist Ethan Strange, with more classic rock, country and dance tunes
- 10 p.m., Luminaria Ceremony; Reflection and Remembrance
- 11:15 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Spirit of Relay, closing activities and final lap

How people can get involved:

- Donate to a team
- Sponsor a team (as a business or via an in-kind donation)
- Sign up as a volunteer
- Sign up as a caregiver or survivor