

Why Relay?

By Brad Nelson

Everyone has their own reasons for participating in a Relay For Life but clearly, EVERYBODY has a reason. We all know someone, or are related to someone and in most cases are close to someone who is affected by cancer of one form or another. My wife is a continual survivor of cancer, my brother is a survivor of skin cancer and my mother died from a form of this disease. Both my wife and I have had several friends who have fought cancer. Some have won and some have lost. Many would think these are the reasons I would participate in the Relay and they would be right.

My wife has struggled with this disease for many years now, and as many of you know she tends to be a fighter. She has also married a musician, to which she will testify can be at times frustrating. We are as opposite as two people can be most times. I think probably most people who know us would probably agree with her as well. I have observed however, that people who have cancer, those like my wife, are true fighters.

I have yet to meet a cancer patient who wouldn't rather fight for the survival of others in their predicament. We don't seem to have any heroes lately, at least as a society. I believe that every survivor of cancer is a hero. Come to the relay and check it out. Look at the smiles of every cancer survivor you see and you will feel their strength and conviction just radiate from them. My wife is a hero to me. I can only hope that I have the strength and determination she has throughout my life.

As a community we should feel proud. Proud to be able to come together and raise money to fight for our loved ones affected by cancer. The Relay For Life is a celebration of life and loved ones. A celebration the entire community can come together and enjoy. Look at the pictures from last years Relay For Life. Look at the smiles and feel the warmth and joy on the faces of so many beautiful people. It's not about the live music, or the games, or the food that brings them together. It's all about a sense of awareness and belonging, and feeling good about being with your friends and loved ones now and remembering those who are no longer here. It's all about life.

Why Relay? Someone you love has or has had Cancer. Relay for them and you'll soon find you are doing it for yourself. Because you'll feel good doing it and you'll take part in making someone smile. How great is that?