

Relay for Life visits Drumright Rotary

April 13, 2013

At Friday's Drumright Rotary Meeting, Rotarian, Amanda Levis, introduced her guests Teresa Ward and Lisa Gomez of Citizen's Insurance Agency in Drumright. Teresa and Lisa are both team members for Relay for Life and have been actively promoting awareness in Drumright over the last few weeks about the up-coming Relay for Life Cushing event on June 23, 2012.



Amanda Levis, Lisa Gomez, Teresa Ward
(in front of Joseph's Fine Foods "purple" support)

Relay for Life was started in 1985 as an effort by one person to help raise money for cancer research. Since then, Relay for Life teams can

be found across the nation throughout the year raising money, providing support and remembering loved ones that have succumbed to cancer.

As the name suggests, the event is held at a track and team members take turns walking or running during the twelve hour event. At least one member from each team is on the track constantly, walking towards a hope of cancer eradication. With multiple team members, loneliness and isolation does not happen. There is always someone on the team that can take the next step – a symbolic message that the American Cancer Society hopes to convey to cancer patients and their families – you are not alone in your fight.

As Teresa and Lisa talked about Relay for Life and why they relay, voice quivers and body language displayed the very raw emotions that are caused by being touched by cancer, either personally or through a dear friend or beloved family member. Watching both women continually support each other and step up to take over the current thought being expressed was a relay of teamwork and breathtaking for the audience.

Even though cancer is not a happy topic, Teresa and Lisa told Drumright Rotary how much fun the Relay for Life events are. The event is held over a twelve hour period starting in the evening and ending in the morning. The reason that the relays are at night, is because for many people that have been touched by cancer, the night is the hardest to get through emotionally. Cushing's event starts at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 23rd and will end at 5:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 24th. There will be a sunrise service for all in attendance on Sunday morning. Also, in Relay for Life, the laps have themes as well. Some examples are a Survivor lap, Fight Back lap and a Luminary Lap where personalized luminaries line the track. Activities for children are also provided making this a family event.

Teresa and Lisa were involved in the Paint Drumright Purple campaign, a week long campaign to include Drumright in fundraising, awareness and fun activities. Thirty-three percent of funds go to national research. In Oklahoma, both OSU and OU have facilities that receive funds for research. In fact, Tamoxifen, an estrogen receptor inhibitor was created in Oklahoma. Twenty-nine percent of funds go towards patient care, including free wigs, gas cards to help with driving expenses and other aids. Eighteen percent of funds go towards education and only three percent of funds go towards administration costs.

For more information about Relay for Life please go to their website www.relayforlife.org. If you would like to donate to any teams participating in Cushing's Relay for Life event, you can find the event on the Relay for Life website or you can contact Teresa and Lisa for more information.

"We come together to celebrate the fight and to celebrate life", says Lisa

Our other guests were Judy Glimp, Gwen Ingram and Gloria Curry.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Jim Martin and his guest David Herber from Congressman Lucas' field office in Yukon.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our website www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary.

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian