

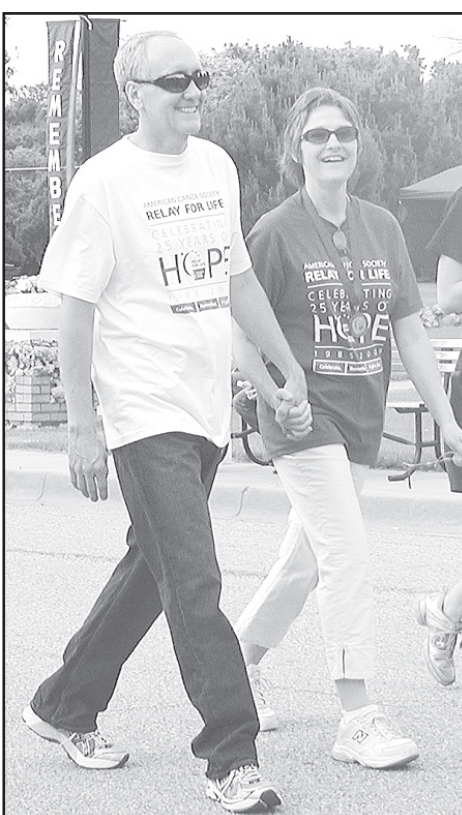
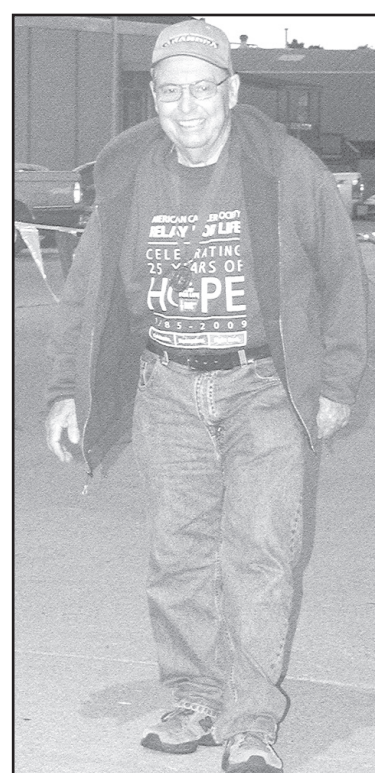


Cancer survivors started the Relay For Life ceremony held Friday night. Holding the banner, (l to r) Jim Walters, Joan Richard, Sandy Frisbee and Rick Reeser.



Isreal Nipps drove the tractor (top) pulling the 'people mover' on which survivors rode because they could not make the walk around the park. Counterclockwise: The family of Dave, left, and Dawn, center, Fry made the caretaker walk; Gloria Bracelin, coordinator of the Relay, drew tickets for the baby quilts brought by Susie Walz, center, and Judy Vaughn; Terry and Mary Beth Miller made the caretaker walk; cancer survivor, Carl Williams, was one of those making up a team; and Denise Andrist told of her bout with cancer and urged every woman there to make sure they had a mamogram.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



# Relay teams raise around \$19,000 to help fight cancer

Residents of Cheyenne County and their families and friends made a giant step toward a cure for cancer on Friday when they participated in the tenth Cheyenne County Relay for Life.

Teams and many other people came together during this year's relay to raise in excess of \$19,000. The final tally will be announced later as money is still coming in.

Money raised during the Relay helps fund the American Cancer Society's research, education, advocacy and service programs. The Society is the largest nonprofit supporter of new cancer research and the largest voluntary health organization fighting cancer in the country.

"We appreciate all the support we received from each of the teams, as well as from sponsors, the committee, and the public," said Gloria Bracelin, chairman. "We are especially grateful to all of the many volunteers and their families for all their hard work to make this event happen."

Relay for Life is a family-oriented event where participants enjoy the camaraderie while also raising funds to support activities of the American Cancer Society. Participants camped out and

when they were not taking their turn walking around Sawhill Park, they took part in fun activities. The Relay also raises awareness about cancer by honoring cancer survivors.

The St. Francis Chamber of Commerce, with Randy, Dustin and Kelsey Andrist and Tina and Tia Sager, served barbecue that had been prepared by Roger Jensen and Travis Jensen. The Cheyenne Shrine Club had their Candy Wagon in the park, and served drinks and other goodies. All proceeds from both organizations were donated to the Relay.

The storm clouds were building as Mrs. Bracelin welcomed everyone to Sawhill Park. Cara Hunt sang the national anthem and Pastor Jeff Landers, from the First Christian Church, gave the invocation. Sandy Frisbee, Rick Reeser, Jim Walters and Joan Richard carried the Survivor's Banner to get the event started. The beginning lap was marked by a dramatic purple and white banner that was made and donated to the Relay by Virginia Fiedler in honor of her son, Bobby, who is fighting a particularly hard battle with cancer. The banner read "Hope starts here" on one side and "Relay for

Life" on the other side. The Survivor's Lap allows Cheyenne County cancer survivors to take a lap around the park to celebrate their progress in defeating cancer.

A "people mover," donated by the Good Samaritan Village, was pulled by Ron Loudon's antique tractor which was driven by Isreal Nipps. The people mover transports those who cannot walk the whole lap.

The second lap is dedicated to the caregivers of the survivors, and the family and friends join the survivors for that lap. The third lap was the team lap with all team members making a lap. Someone from each team then walked around the park all night and into the dawn to raise money for the cure of cancer.

"Please thank the sponsors for their support," said Betty Petersen, corporate chairman. "We would not be so successful in our campaign without the generosity of these people and their companies."

After the three laps, activities began in the band shell. Jennifer Van Eaton, community management development of the American Cancer Society, Colby, in-

roduced herself and welcomed everyone. This was her fourth year to help plan and participate in the county's Relay. She then introduced the local committee and thanked them for their many hours of service toward putting on the Relay.

Survivor stories were told by Denise Andrist, Hoagie Carmichael and Ron Barkley. Entertainment for the event was coordinated by Dara Loyd and Leisha Hilt. The crowd enjoyed performances from Dance Ranch kids, acts from the grade school talent show, the St. Francis Singers and the Once Again Band.

The weather turned out to be a cool summer evening under the stars.

"The storm passed us by, symbolizing the journey of a cancer victim, that, even when it looks the darkest, the dawn does come and there is hope ahead," said Betty Loudon, committee member.

Thus, the teams walked through the midnight hours and into the dawn.

The auction of donated items was done by Betty and Skip Petersen of Western Auction and Real Estate. The crowd was very active and the baskets, quilt, pic-

ture and flowers brought in around \$3,000.

Many fund raisers were held throughout the year. People probably noticed the sets of pink flamingos that decorated lawns. This was one team's money raiser. There were jars in several places where people could vote for the person to kiss the goat. Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, was elected and all the money raised by the emergency medical technicians was donated to the Relay. There was money raised through daffodil sales and quilt donations. Kenny Bracelin, a cancer survivor, and his family, held a fundraiser party at Riverside Recreation in April.

The Common Thread Quilt Guild ladies made and donated a "Turning Twenty" quilt and the winner was Sidney Friedli, granddaughter of Rick and Linda Rogers.

"We think we have the most caring community and the most gorgeous park to hold a Relay in, so thanks to all who participated in any way," said Susie Walz, survivor chairman.

The all-night music was provided by Darren Kannady of Goodland. This music was donated to the Relay.

The hair donated for Locks of Love was held prior to the Relay. Among those donating hair to be made into wigs were: Slim Baxter, Edie Walters, Crystal Schultz, Katelin Jones, Sue Hubbell, Maggie Lambert, Katie Lambert and Trisha Harkness.

At dusk, the luminaria ceremony began. Candles were lit all around Sawhill Park and the band shell, while Mrs. Petersen and Mrs. Loudon read the names of those people whom luminaries had been purchased.

Keely Loyd, chairman of the luminarias, said the community had been generous with their support.

It is always such an emotional time, she said, as you see the candles lit all over the park, glowing in the night for the cure of cancer.

The Marino family of Goodell Greenhouse, donated the use of their flower carts so that the volunteers could place luminarias around the park.

"We have recognized the many people who have helped make the Relay a reality but, I would like to thank all those people who live around the park," Mrs. Bracelin said. "It surely interrupted their night's sleep but no one complained."