

Daniel Boone Relay for Life sets 2012 goals

Published: Tuesday, November 08, 2011

By Donna Rovins
News Editor
drovins@berksmontnews.com

The Relay for Life of Daniel Boone has kicked off its fundraising efforts for the year, gearing up for the next Relay for Life, scheduled for May 26, 2012.

Activities surrounding the annual event are nearly year-round, and the planning certainly is. The organization held its kick-off at Keystone Villa at Douglassville Oct. 13, a celebration of the 2011 event and a jumping off point for 2012.

"Many people might not realize that the Relay year ends on Aug. 31, well after the event date. And we continue raising money up until then. So kick-off is an opportunity for us to get information out about how we did, and to outline our plans," said event chair Tracy Driehaus.

"We were trying to get across the message that Relay isn't just an 18 or 24 hour event; it's a year-round event. We like to get started early, to give us a full eight months to focus and to get people excited."

And those efforts seem to be working. The goal for last year's event was \$70,000, and the Relay for Life of Daniel Boone raised \$72,194.

"This was our third year, and we have grown every year in terms of participants, teams, survivors and money raised," Driehaus said.

The goal for the 2012 event is to raise \$73,000 and there has already been one fundraising event, with more planned between now and the event in May, including Breakfast with Santa Dec. 10.

"I think with it being a year-round event it opens Relay to more people," Driehaus said. "Some people can't participate on the day of, because of work or other plans. But they realize that there may be ways they can contribute in other ways and on other days. I think people have embraced the event because of the all-encompassing aspect of it."

The theme for the 2012 Relay for Life of Daniel Boone is "The Wonderful World of Disney." Sign-ups have already begun, and as of last week there were 16 teams registered.

Teams can sign up by going to www.relayforlife.org/padanielboone. Once the team is signed up, the site tracks the overall fundraising but team members can also get information about team meetings and events



Submitted photos: The Relay for Life of Daniel Boone recently held their kick-off for the 2012 Relay. Past participants and those interested in participating came out to hear the results of fundraising for 2011 and the goals for 2012.

track the overall fundraising, but team members can also get information about team meetings and events, as well as specifics about the main event in May.

“The level of support in the community for this event continues to grow, and I am so gratified by the amount of community involvement,” Driehaus added. “This event was initially started by students in the high school, and it has grown to include adults from the community, the school community, parents and area doctors; coming together on the day of and being more active during the rest of the year.”

Driehaus said the Relay for Life of Daniel Boone has been given an honor this year, being asked to participate in the American Cancer Society’s Cancer Prevention Study – 3.

The study will follow 300,000 Americans between the ages of 30 and 65 for at least 20 years. Its purpose is to get a better understanding of the factors that cause and prevent cancer. Participants cannot have been diagnosed with cancer before. After providing some initial information, including a small blood sample, participants will be contacted every two years with follow-up surveys.

“We are so honored to have been selected to participate,” Driehaus said. “Our goal is to sign-up at least 200 participants. The participants will need to come to Relay, because that’s where we’ll be taking the initial information and the blood sample.”

According to information on the ACS website, previous Cancer Prevention Studies have shown the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, the impact of being overweight or obese on risk of cancer occurrence and death, the impact of hormones, physical activity, diet, various medications and vitamins, and various other factors in relation to cancer risk and the link between aspirin use and reduced risk of colon cancer.

Driehaus said two Relay for Life organizations in each region were selected to be part of the effort. The Boone Relay is part of the Pennsylvania/Ohio region.

Anyone looking to participate in the study can contact Driehaus at 610-906-0551 or at driehaus@dboone.org.