

Courageous Teacher Inspires Daniel Boone Students



by **DAWN WIVELL**

Students of Daniel Boone teacher Lori Kemp, who lost her battle with stomach/intestinal cancer in 2008, were so inspired by her courage; they began the Daniel Boone Relay for Life in 2009. That year there were 21 teams with approximately 210 participants, who raised just over \$49,000 for the American Cancer Society.

This year 46 teams with 562 participants raised over \$64,000 at the event held May 21 and 22 at the Amity Athletic Club.

Event Chair Tracy Driehaus says, "To me what makes our Relay extra special is the unique relationship that we have with the Daniel Boone school district. It's not only high school students who are involved. There are teams representing the middle school students, teachers

and cafeteria staff as well as elementary school teachers and administrators. In addition, each year, we hold 'mini-Relays' at each of the elementary schools."

High school student committee members visit the elementary. They teach the children about cancer prevention techniques, such as healthy eating, exercise, and using sun protection. Throughout the weeks leading up to the mini-Relays, each of the elementary teachers places a bottle in his or her classroom for coin collections. In 2009, they donated about \$500; last year, that amount increased to almost \$800. This year, the elementary school students raised \$1,091 - all in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters!

The Daniel Boone Relay is just one of eight Relays being hosted

throughout Berks County this year. Other relays include the Twin Valley Relay held on June 17 and 18, and the Boyertown Relay scheduled for June 25 and 26.

The money raised at these Relays goes toward cancer research and helping those with cancer. But Relay for Life isn't just a fund-raiser, it's an opportunity to celebrate the lives of people who have survived cancer and to remember those who have lost their battle with cancer. It unites participants against a common enemy and offers inspiration and support.

For more information go to <http://www.relayforlife.org/relay/>.

- Contact Merchandiser Editor at 717-273-8127 or editor@themerchandiser.com

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