

My name is Dona Latham. I am the event chair for the Humboldt County Relay for Life

Relay for Life is the signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life is an overnight team event that increases awareness of cancer in the community and raises much needed funds to fight the disease. At Relay for Life, teams of friends, neighbors, families and co-workers commit to keeping at least one person walking on the track at all times because cancer never sleeps. Relay for Life is also a time for everyone to gather and celebrate their fundraising efforts and more importantly a time for us to support and honor those battling cancer and remember those that cancer has taken from us.

The 2012 Humboldt County Relay for Life is July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at College of the Redwoods. The opening ceremony starts at 10:00 am on Saturday. We will have lots of fun things going on throughout the 24 hours.

We invite all cancer survivors in our community to attend the event. Please join other survivors and caregivers to participate in the inspirational Survivor's lap that begins at approximately 11:00am. For many, the experience of gathering together with other cancer survivors is very powerful and moving. Some of the other exciting and moving activities include a Ceremony of Hope at dusk and at inspirational closing ceremony.

Now is the time to get involved.

Have you ever looked into the eyes of someone with cancer? If you have you know why the American Cancer Society is here and what we are fighting for. Thanks to incredible advances in science, cancer prevention, treatments and lifestyle changes, we are closer than ever before to

conquering this disease. But we still have a long way to go. Cancer remains the number 1 cause of death for people in their prime working years. Cancer counts for three times the number of deaths caused by alcohol, car accidents, illegal drugs, suicide, homicide, fire and Aids combined. Almost half of all Americans will develop cancer in their lifetime.

All the funds raised through Relay for Life will create a world with less cancer and more birthdays by helping people stay well, by helping people get well, by finding cures and fighting back. If you or someone you know is diagnosed with cancer, the American Cancer Society can help. Call 1-800-227-2345 or visit the website at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

As the event chair for the 2012 Humboldt County Relay For life I would like to personally invite you to attend the special event on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at College of the Redwoods.

This has been Dona Latham with the American Cancer Society for Community Comment