



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Goose Creek CISD students and staff raise money for annual Relay For Life

Many Goose Creek CISD teachers, staff members and students are taking a break from their weekend routine to walk for a life-changing cause.

The Baytown Relay For Life, the largest such event in Texas, ran from 6 p.m. April 8 until 8 a.m. April 9 at Royal Purple Raceway.

Relay For Life gives participants the opportunity to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease through awareness and fundraising. At Relay, teams of people camp out and take turns walking or running around a track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events.

And out among the hundreds, if not thousands of folks at the raceway this weekend, will be a multitude of teachers, students, and staff members of Goose Creek CISD — all raising money for cancer research, just as they do every year.

But the walking part is just the final lap of a year of fundraising by Goose Creek students and staff. There have been many spirit nights at Chic-fil-A and Double Dave's where portions of sales were donated to Relay For Life through the school. "Jean Coupons" for school personnel were sold across the district, students bought Relay-themed bracelets for a buck, dessert auctions were held (Travis earned \$361), and Relay For Life raffles of gift baskets of every kind were conducted.

And there will be more raffles on Friday night.

At the Relay, Goose Creek Memorial High School is raffling off a beautiful red, white, and black full/queen size quilt. The folks at Hopper Primary are raffling off a mega-sized Spa Basket with all the face-fixings, creams and such a woman would want. Crockett's Relay for Life Team is raffling a custom made photo album.

Some of the district volunteers join the Relay to honor colleagues or family members who succumbed to cancer.

At Travis Elementary School, this year's team name is "Nelson's Tigers," in memory of its longtime and beloved P.E. teacher, Pat Nelson, who passed away in October.

The school's goal for this year was to raise \$1,000.

"We feel confident that we will reach \$3,000 by Friday night," said Melanie Christensen, Travis Librarian.

One family, several of whom work for the school district, formed a team this year in honor of their grandfather, Raymond Clement who succumbed to cancer last year. The team is called "Clement Family & Friends" The following family members work for the district: Jennifer Nerf and Kimberly Hanle, Baytown Junior; Suzanne Alimena, Administration, Candy Kovalcik, Sandy Martin, Administration; Denice Massengale, Highlands Junior; Terri Smith, Walker; Stacey Stork, Cedar Bayou; Pat Clement, TMS; and Jenny Kovalcik, Hyland Center.

At Alamo Elementary, this year they are "Team Brunson," in honor of P.E. teacher Jon Brunson who passed away in February.

The Ashbel Smith Elementary Relay for Life team has worked each year to raise more money than the previous. This year, the team consists of 19 members, two of them being cancer survivors themselves.



With hundreds of students and staff expected to participate, Goose Creek CISD was well represented in this weekend's Relay For Life. [Photo gallery](#)

Here is what some of the other Goose Creek CISD schools have done or will do to benefit the 2011 Baytown Relay For Life.

Last year, Stephen F. Austin Elementary School raised \$6,000 for Relay For Life. This year, teacher and Relay coordinator Nicole Grisham reports the school so far has raised \$8,000.

"Throughout the year we have a snack bar set up in the teachers lounge; we sell T-shirts to faculty, students and parents; we have a change drive contest for two weeks for the students to bring in their change; and we have teachers pay each week to wear jeans," she said.

On Friday night, Austin will be selling light up necklaces, yo-yo's and peace sign bracelets.

Sterling High School held several fundraisers throughout the school year. Individual organizations have donated funds from concessions, sold T-shirts, sold wristbands so students could wear pajamas, or just made a donation to name a few.

Sterling students will be selling sand art out at the Relay itself where people can choose between a boot or ice cream cone necklace, then fill it with colored sand for \$2.

So far, Sterling has raised \$7,400.

Crockett Elementary School is a Gold Sponsor (\$2,000 donation) this year. The school's goal is to turn in \$2,300 from its garage sale, iPod auction, jeans coupons, donations, coin drive, and silent auction.

For four years, Rosa Cisneros-Hernandez has been the team captain for San Jacinto Elementary's Relay for Life team.

"We have gotten Bronze status (which is \$100 to \$150 per walker) two years in a row, and we are going for a third year," she said.

Cisneros-Hernandez said the San Jacinto team, which has raised about \$2,000, consists of staff members and family members.

"As part of our fundraisers, we serve tostada plate lunches, brisket plate lunches, chop brisket sandwiches, silent bake auctions and silent auction other items donated by staff, former parents, and our own family members too. We raffle a basket of goodies for Valentine's Day, too," she said.

"On the day of Relay, I have great help from my husband, in-laws, and cousins who help me set up for our campsite," said Cisneros-Hernandez. "We sell food, drinks, and we barbecue for our walkers or anyone who helps set up and clean up. At times we have people that want to donate and buy a plate of whatever we are barbecuing because it smells and looks good.

"We don't mind; it is all done for a great cause. Finding a cure for cancer!" she said.

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