

La Mesa volunteers walk 24 hours to fight cancer

This past weekend, April 5-6, over 200 La Mesa community members gathered at Parkway Middle School to raise awareness about cancer.

The first annual La Mesa Relay For Life was a unique 24-hour celebration of cancer survivorship and a tribute to those who have lost their battle. Participants took turns walking the track over 24 hours to signify that cancer never sleeps. Throughout the day there was entertainment - such as the Jack City Blues Band and kids from The School of Rock; food - donated from Cupid's Catering and Sanfillipo's Pizza; and fun and education - all designed towards cancer prevention.

The Relay For Life is an American Cancer Society sponsored event, organized and executed by community volunteers. All money raised goes toward supporting cancer research, education, advocacy and patient services.

Vicki Schooley, the Event Chair, commented how wonderful it was to see the community of La Mesa come together for this goal.

Mayor Art Madrid attended the event and said, "The 1st Relay For Life in La Mesa was a very moving, emotional and highly successful event. It reminded us that every individual has a family member, friend, or has personally been touched by cancer, and participating in this event is the first step in the healing process."

Nearly fifty students from Parkway Middle School, encouraged by their teachers, Ron Begley and Dina Levin, raised over \$4000.00 for this noble cause. They camped out over night in tents on the field, taking turns walking the track. Although everyone was tired in the morning, they were served a wonderful pancake breakfast to wake them up and top off the event.

For those who would like to get involved in the planning and organizing of next year's event, please contact Vicki Schooley at 619-987-4642, or your local American Cancer Society office at 619-682-7410.