



Friday, October 29, 2004

## One step at a time: Walking toward a cure for cancer

Oakland University walkers will go around-the-clock in the battle against cancer during the American Cancer Society's (ACS) Relay For Life. The 24-hour fund-raiser, which begins at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, at Oakland University's Recreation Center, is dedicated to celebrating life and fighting cancer.

Relay For Life participants, including cancer patients and survivors, OU faculty and staff, students organizations, community churches and volunteers, will walk or wheelchair around the track to help raise money for educational programs, cancer research and patient services.

Cancer survivors will unite for the first lap and to kick-off the festivities, which resemble a campout as the event continues. A luminaria ceremony will be held in the evening, in which luminaries are lit around the track to honor survivors and remember those who have lost the battle against cancer.

"Relay for Life is as much an awareness raiser about the progress against cancer as it is a fund-raiser," said Erin Flemming, event chair and OU admissions adviser. "Many of the participants will be people who have dealt with cancer themselves. Their involvement is proof of the progress that has been made in reducing cancer death rates and in the quality of life following cancer treatment."

According to the American Cancer Society, cancer is the second leading cause of deaths in the United States, surpassed only by heart disease. This year alone, more than 560,000 Americans are expected to die of cancer, or more than 1,500 people per day.

"Due to the generosity of our sponsors like International Union of Security/Police/Fire Professionals of America, OUTV, WXOU and The Oakland Post, the money raised by participants goes directly to the American Cancer Society's lifesaving programs," said Jeremy Agler, OU alumnus and member of the American Cancer Society lead staff.

For information about becoming involved in Relay For Life, call the American Cancer Society at (586) 263-8000 or e-mail Agler at [Jeremy.Agler@cancer.org](mailto:Jeremy.Agler@cancer.org).

### SUMMARY

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