

2007 RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay collects nearly \$40,000

Perhaps as many as 1,000 individuals attended the fifth annual Relay For Life event held June 15-16 at Nicholas County High School. Supporters say nearly \$40,000 was raised to help fund research toward finding a cure for cancer.

"I thought we had a really good turnout," said Relay Chairperson Georgia Gilvin. Gilvin, a cancer survivor, has worked tirelessly with others all year to make this year's Relay a success. "I believe in what we are doing. I praise all of the cancer survivors and I am grateful for everyone who participated in this year's event."

"We have Relay to help find a cure for cancer," said Mary Knapke, vice chair of Friday night's event.

"We had team members walking around the track all night long. We had a good crowd and we raised a lot of money. All the money we raise is pooled on the National level with the American Cancer Society to help find a cure for cancer. That's what the American Cancer Society is all about."

Knapke has been involved with the local Relay For Life event since its inception five years ago, and is the recipient of this year's Joan W. Conley Humanitarian Award.

"I felt very honored to receive the award," Knapke said.

Others who received awards are Bob and Carol Garvin, who received the David Zachary Commu-

nity Service Award, Jimmy Tischer, who received the Helen Warner Hughes Youth Award and Doug Garrett who received the very first Spirit of Relay Award.

James Compton was the recipient of the Walk-A-Mile In My Shoes or Caregiver award.

"According to Knapke, who presented Garrett with the award amid thunderous applause, Garrett has been a strong and dedicated supporter of Relay For Life.

"We deeply appreciate all of the help that our sponsors provided," Knapke said. "But Mr. Garrett was our very first corporate sponsor during our first Relay For Life and he has been a sponsor each year since. He is a very community-minded in-

dividual and this was a very special award."

Anita Marcum, treasurer for this year's Relay, said the tally from Saturday morning is \$38,834 but she and Knapke acknowledged that with other funds still remaining to be turned in by Relay participants, the total could reach \$40,000.

Both Marcum and Knapke expressed deep praise to everyone who contributed time, money or effort for the worthy cause.

Those in attendance were treated to a variety of delicious food, beautiful weather and entertainment.

As young adults and children gathered in clusters in and around the track to enjoy pick up games of softball and toss Frisbees and foot-

balls, adults laughed out loud and dug deeply in their pockets to support their favorite "Pretty Woman."

Master of Ceremonies, Josh Sheppard, briefly interviewed the seven masculine, yet delicately dressed contestants, who together solicited a total of \$820 from the crowd.

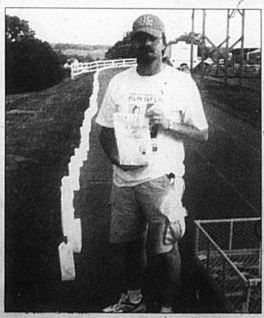
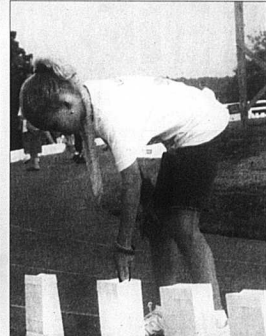
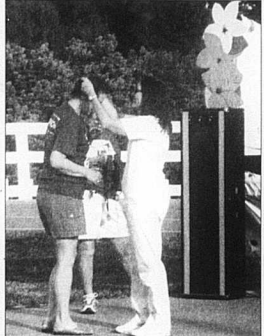
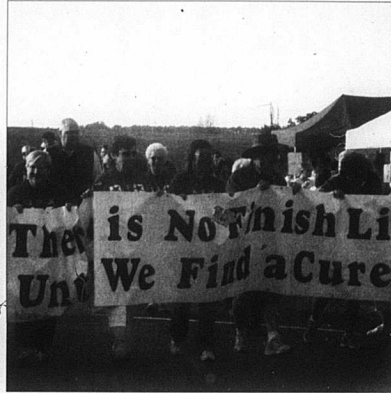
This year's Pretty Woman contest winner was Cher, so well portrayed by Casey Anderson.

Loretta Farris, who has beaten cancer three times, was in charge of this year's survivor's booth.

Farris and State Representative Carolyn Belcher presented each of the approximately 60 survivors in attendance with a medal.

Farris, who beat her first diagnosis of cancer 21 years ago, said there are specific actions individuals can take to increase their chances of surviving cancer.

"Don't give up," Farris said. "Whatever you do, don't give up. Find a good friend or family member and talk about it. That has helped me tremendously. I would also say to an individual who is diagnosed that if they do not like what the doctor says, well, there's no harm in getting a second opinion from another doctor. I believe being around other cancer survivors has helped me as much as anything else. But my best advice to anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer is to not give up. Never give up."



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