

## American Cancer Society Relay for Life



A special heartfelt message from a Soroptimist member who has experienced cancer: “My thanks to all the Soroptimists for sponsoring a Relay for Life team which raised \$1,900 this year. Many years ago, just finishing a nursing program, I had a conversation with a colleague about which disease was more damaging. Cancer was not my first choice because ‘They will find a cure soon.’ That was 1960 and the War on Cancer began.

Then one family member was diagnosed with cancer, and one day I was diagnosed with cancer. Each time my life stopped, I wondered if I would ever begin to breathe again. I remembered feeling helpless, scared, unable to move forward, and trying to remember that there are drugs and treatments available.

When my friend lost her son to an aggressive cancer, we all rallied, how to support, comfort, and walk and talk about hope, cure? How to move forward, share experiences, and we found a common cause in Relay for Life.

Relay is an experience to plan one day of fun, talk about positive outcomes and bring a smile to a cancer survivor with gifts and activities that the 20 teams provide for all ages. There are messages for cancer prevention strategies and information for mammograms, colonoscopies, and a healthy life style. In the evening there were shared stories of pain, survival, grief, and a slide presentation to honor loved ones lost.

Billions of dollars have been spent on research and cures, and more needs to be raised to increase survivorship for all ages and people in all walks of life.” Contact Mary Musante for more information at [musantemary@yahoo.com](mailto:musantemary@yahoo.com).