



El Monte NEWS

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American Cancer Society's Relay For Life Unites El Monte
Families and friends in El Monte Use Hearts and Feet to Fight Cancer

El Monte, Calif. - This year, walkers and runners will go around the clock in the battle against cancer during the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life in El Monte.

Teams of El Monte residents and workers will gather at El Monte High School on October 2, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. for a fund-raising 24-hour relay walk/run against cancer. Relay For Life is a family-oriented team event where participants can walk or run relay-style around the track and take part in fun activities off the track. Teams can include co-workers, club members, family and friends who have gathered donations prior to the event.

"EL MONTE HIGH SCHOOL IS A PERFECT SITE FOR THE 24 HOUR RELAY", SAYS HONORARY EVENT CHAIRMAN JUVENTINO "J" GOMEZ. "...AND EL MONTE IS A COMMUNITY THAT COMES TOGETHER IN TOUGH TIMES. MANY PEOPLE SUFFER FROM THE RAVAGES OF CANCER, AND WE WANT TO DO OUR PART TO CELEBRATE THEIR LIVES AND FIND A CURE".

"Many of the participants are cancer survivors, which serves as a reminder that our community is not immune to this disease and that we can actually help our friends, families and our neighbors that have been touched by cancer," Gomez added.

The public is also invited to attend the luminaria ceremony, which will take place after sundown on Saturday. To honor the community's cancer survivors and to commemorate those lost to the disease, survivors will circle the track rimmed with glowing luminarias while the names of survivors and those lost to the disease are read aloud. Luminarias can be purchased for \$10 either from any team, from the American Cancer Society at (626) 795-7774 x 227, or at the event itself.

Those interested in participating in the El Monte Relay for Life can form a team or become a member of another team. Team Recruitment Chairman Gina Christiansen of The Church of our Saviour is actively seeking teams and team members to make this event one of the biggest in the San Gabriel Valley. She can be reached at (626) 579-2190 x 151. "Our goal is to bring in as many people as possible", says Christiansen. "The more people and teams, the more fun it is for everyone. And the cause is a very worthy one," she added.

Funds raised by Relay For Life will enable the American Cancer Society to support local services for cancer patients and their families such as Reach to Recovery, a peer-to-peer support program for women with breast cancer and “I Can Cope,” a series of classes to educate those touched by cancer. Funds also support critical cancer research and community education programs designed to teach people how to reduce their risk of developing cancer.

Relay For Life events will be held in more than 180 communities throughout California, raising \$18.5 million for the fight against cancer. The American Cancer Society is a nationwide voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives from cancer and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. To locate a Relay For Life event and find out how you can get involved, please call 800/ACS-2345, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or visit www.cancer.org.

El Monte, a city incorporated in 1912 and home to more than 116,000 residents, is a full-service city located in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley. It is freeway-close to all of Los Angeles, bisected by Interstate 10 and abutting Interstate 605. El Monte is home to a mega auto mall and boasts the largest single car dealership in the world, Longo Toyota.

El Monte can be visited on the web at www.ElMonteCA.gov

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