

THE CVUMC RELAY FOR LIFE TWITTER JOURNAL

Lots of our lives have been touched by cancer. Too many. Thanks to the organizing efforts of the Kummers and Norma Ellis, we contributed energy and money (about \$1400) to this community-wide effort (which raised \$101,000!). We had at least one person present for every moment of the 24-hour event! The Twitter Journal below is an effort to connect our shared experience. Thanks to all who contributed to it, and to the many more who walked and donated. Enjoy.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

(Ed Waldheim)

Friday 3:00 p.m.: I'm setting up with Chris and J's Maintenance Staff. 7 p.m.: The staff is leaving, but we keep going. So much to set up. Tables, tents, cookers, and the list goes on forever...

SATURDAY, MAY 16

Saturday 6:00 a.m.: I arrive and continue setting things up - Trash cans, Recycle Cans. Young folks are helping put them around.

(Pam Kummer)

8:45 a.m.: Meet Sandy and open the CVUMC booth.

(Sandy Saltsman)

9:00 a.m. Arrive to open CVUMC booth area with Pam and have quality time with my friend. We enjoy

CVUMCers coming by. Norma and friend are adding beads. We see the parade of family, friends and survivors ready to make their walk. I see my friend in her purple shirt and yell at her. I purchase 3 luminario bags, Forget that



Tricia was a survivor and purchase one for her. This is new to us so Pam told Tricia to register and get her purple shirt to wear. We will do better next year.

(Ed) 9:00 a.m.: The Ceremony starts with Flag salute, poems, thank you's to teams and the walk with survivors on under way. Paul Kober and Rick Fisher friends of mine walk with me until Noon.

(Pam) 9:00 a.m.: Time for the Opening ceremonies. It is inspiring to watch the survivors take their first lap in purple. There are at least 40 of them, including a little boy about Jack's age. Bill and I are thinking of our mothers who both died of cancer.

(Judy & Susan Meinke)

9:15 a.m. We're the first walkers from the church. I'm thinking of a dear friend who passed away 5 years ago from pancreatic cancer - Rita. Dallas Raines the Weatherman is dancing with a survivor.

(Pam) 9:30 a.m. Tricia & A.J. & Sean and the boys are here. They set up the tent on Friday night.

9:45 a.m. Lots of greetings - everybody waves and says hi whether we know them or not. This is such a warm event. Loraine & Bert stop by with a check.

(Sandy) 10:10 a.m. The grandkids are really collecting their beads. What an experience. Pam, Norma and I are already talking about what we can do next year to be more visible, but this is a start. We keep reminding Norma to drink water.

(Pam) 10:00 a.m. Patti Dickinson is here and hanging out in the booth with us (til about 11:30).

(Kim Mawhinney & Jack)

10:30 a.m.: Arrive to see a strong crew staffing our booth. After registering and learning that one can collect beads for each lap - Jack is off and running, leaving Mom in the dust. Quickly his strand of beads expands.

(Ed) 11.30 a.m. Trash and water duty

does not stop. Lot of folks help me get the ice and water and put it in the red buckets. Trash dumping again I do to keep recycling out of the trash cans. We have 40 trash cans and 11 recycle cans, you could think they'd get the message but no.

(Pam) 11:30 a.m. Jack arrives at the tent very red-faced and sweaty. He says: "My next bead is a letter bead – I'm getting a J for Jack. Mom, you have to come with me." Norma volunteers, so she and Jack take off. He's determined to spell his whole name. Jack is really inspired to walk for the cause. As his grandmother, I'm so touched and proud!

(Kim & Jack) 12:30 p.m.: With red faces from the heat and sun, Jack and a kindergarten friend enjoy some time hiding out under a table at the next door booth, enjoying free hot dogs and cookies!

(Pam) 1:30 p.m. I tag out and go home.

(Kim & Jack) While Jack could stay all day and night - we tag out temporarily to head to his T-ball game.

(Ed) 4:00 p.m. Linda joins me walking. Also my friend Roger Vargo (Cecil Page Vargo's Husband) is walking with us.

(Jeanne Lavieri)

5:00 p.m. I arrive, find the CVUMC tent, and check in with Norma. Notice a young man walking the track wearing grass skirt and coconuts.

5:30 p.m. Bob Cesarone arrives with banjo and guitar, hoping to play. He had played for us at our Empty Bowls in November but he and Norma thought they had met earlier in life,



Suggestions for that occasion are prison, a rocket science conference, or perhaps a real estate transaction. Grass Skirt Guy is still walking.

6:00 p.m. Bob and I enjoying playing. Forever Young. Orphan Girl. Grass Skirt Guy still going strong.

6:30 p.m. Rusty from the Bluegrass Billionaires stops by and plays a mean "Wipeout" drum solo on his thigh, accompanied by Bob on guitar. It's a hit. Yup, GSG still walking.

(Kim & Jack)

7:00 p.m.: After begging all afternoon to go back, Jack and I make our way back to the booth. This time he spots more kids from school and they're off and running. Surprisingly they keep coming back with more and more beads, I'm not sure all honestly earned since we've seen them sprint between the tents - but they are having a blast.

8:00 p.m.: Watch Jack and a friend decorate luminaries in honor of his dad. I'm sure Jack, at 5, has no comprehension of what cancer means, and I pray that the disease stays away from us from here on out.

8:30 p.m.: Enjoy listening to Jeanne and her friend playing and singing in the booth. Take a lap around with the other church families and admire the the lighting of the luminaries.

(Sandy and Bill Saltsman)

8:30 p.m. We arrive and of course I have to show him everything. A lot CVUMCers coming and going. We enjoy music by Jeanne and Bob. We walk before the ceremony starts to locate our bags. Soon we receive our candle to hold for the ceremony. The candles are lit from person to person and we stand and listen as the names are read and it is as emotional as I had been told. We hear our friends' names and Tricia's as a survivor.

(Kim & Jack) 8:45 p.m.: With Jack in my arms, enjoy one last lap around the field, feeling overwhelmed both by the sadness of those who have lost their lives and by the hope that those who are survivors go on.

(Jeanne) 9 p.m. Put the guitar away and enjoyed a few laps around the track. I notice how well everyone is behaving and getting along. Lost track of GSG.

10:00 p.m. During the day and on the

candlelight walk, I am remembering my father, Carmine Lavieri, and my friend Reyna. And hoping for Hope who is doing well since her treatments and my friend Bob from work who in in treatment now.

10:30 A quiet goodbye. Glad I came. *(Sandy & Bill)* We head home.

(Paige and Forrest)

9:00 p.m. We arrive in time for the Luminario service. Lots of CVUMCers are around. We are proud to be part of the team.

10:00 p.m. We walk in memory of our friends Steve Ryan and Peggy Hendricks. The crowd has thinned out significantly. Lights are low – we are enjoying the live music. Trish & A.J. and the kids seem to have gone to bed, because every time we pass the CVUMC booth, it is oddly quiet and empty.

10:30 p.m. We stop for pasta from Gourmet a-Go Go and say hi to Chris & Lena Waldheim.

11:00 p.m. Paul & Lisa Dutton are still up over at the Midnight Magic/CERT booth. They meet Forrest and give us noisemakers to blow at midnight in celebration.

11:30 p.m. We're digging the late-night Relay vibe. The bead guy is getting a little loopy and making up songs about spiders. An improv troupe is on stage. A

group of teenagers is singing Queen songs on the bleachers.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

Midnight: We compliantly blow our noisemakers along with the teenagers behind us, but in the big quiet space they sound like lonely, sad, little ducks.



Lisa was hoping for more, but she'll get over it. We tag out and go home, missing John Waferling.

John Waferling is on site from midnight until 4:00 a.m.. No twitter journal from him, so some of the wee hours of Relay for Life remain a mystery...

(Alex Stupakis)

9:30 p.m. I go to bed around and set the alarm for 2:30 a.m. I hope I can gut it out and run or walk for my parents, who both died of cancer. Dad pancreatic, Mom, endometrial cancer that "recurred" in the lungs.

2:30 a.m. Alarm goes off and I quietly wake up, get my jogging gear on and WALK up to the Clark Magnet School.

Stiff but need to tough it out. See no one from the church, but after about 10-15 minutes, see Bill Kummer. We walk then stop to sit down at our booth. Bill sits but I stand as it hurts my back to sit.

3:00 a.m. John Waferling joins us in the booth and we chat away. I walk with John as he is on overtime after his shift between 12-3am. John leaves to go to get some sleep.

4:50 a.m. I decide to go for a jog on the streets of LC, as the "track" is an uneven grass surface. I jog around quiet and dark LC for 33 minutes.

(Ed) Sunday @ 5:00 a.m. Firing up the grills. Alex is first to be there to help after running 5 miles. Others join in and by 5.45 we are ready to feed everyone.

(Alex) 5:25 a.m. I see Ed and a few others already setting up for breakfast. I finish stretching on the damp grass and begin helping the breakfast crew, under the stellar direction of Ed. I meet some more people I know from La Crescenta. I know practically everyone! People say I should run for mayor.

I step in to the job of pouring pancake batter and flipping pancakes. I find out Ed's secret to pancakes...he uses Seven Up instead of water! The crowd is minimal...We have way too many pancakes.

(Sandy) 6:30 am. Arrive to help with pancake breakfast. They started earlier and my help wasn't needed so I had breakfast.

(Alex) 7:30 a.m. We are almost done with feeding the minimal crowd. My son Greg spent the night and grouchy and sleep-deprived saunters over to me and sez Mom is coming to pick him up.

8:00 a.m. I am tired and stinky from sweat and want to go home to a

shower as I have "sound tech" duties at church. I leave to go home with Greg and feel good about the time I spent at the Relay for Life!

(Sandy) 8:15 a.m. So it is Bill Kummer and me to take down CVUMC booth and do we ever. Done and off to home and get ready for church. Norma orders us to wear our T-shirts and we do, the boss spoke. Norma was still there when we left but she was late to church. Ha! Till next year, blessings for a grand affair.

(Ed) 8:15 a.m. We're closing the diner and going to the stage for awards and ceremony.

9:58 a.m. We've finished cleaning everything up. Ryan Waldheim helping me pull all of the Recycle cans going around in the golf cart. Norma Ellis, Linda and I leave for church while Chris stays to lock things up and get vehicles back to the office. Long 48 hours. Recycle nets another \$97 for Relay!