



The 2010 Relay For Life of Central Bucks Middle Schools brought together over 500 cancer survivors and caregivers. Ever-thankful for the time that you dedicate to fighting cancer, please take a minute to read a few notes that these individuals would like to share with you.

YOU are making a difference in the lives of cancer survivors, their families, and our community.



## AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

**Celebrate.**

**Remember.**

**Fight Back.**

Dear Relay For Life Students:

Each year when I receive my packet of information about the upcoming Relay for Life Celebration, I am thrilled and thankful to get the invitation to attend as a Survivor.

Somehow, each year's event gets larger and more amazing than the year before, both in participation by you, the students and in the unbelievable amount of money that you raise. As Survivors it means so much to see all of the support and kindness you show us during Relay each year, and I know that the role you play is very special to not only the Survivors but to Caregivers as well.

I consider Relay to be just like a birthday and it's one of three special days I'm lucky to celebrate each year. Because of your dedication, participation, and volunteerism raising donations to help fight and find a cure for cancer I get to celebrate two additional days that are just like birthdays. The second day that's like a birthday is the day each year my cancer doctor tells me I'm still cancer free, and the third day that's just like a birthday is Relay For Life.

Thanks for all you do and for the extra birthdays!! Look forward to seeing you at Relay. Don't forget to say hello, I'll be in a Purple shirt.

Jim Furfari  
9 year Survivor



Thank you so much for all the hard work you and your team put forth for the Relay for Life. Your participation and contribution mean more than you know. You are an inspiration to survivors like me. You are working hard to help end cancer and I deeply appreciate it. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Sincerely,  
Rita Manzo  
2 ½ year Survivor



Dear Middle School Students:

I have been a volunteer in Relay for Life at Tohickon for a few years. Last year, I came as both a volunteer and "Survivor." The young people who participate in Relay are truly a gift to our community. I know I speak for countless others when I say how grateful we are for your generosity, hard work, time and enthusiasm. The



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energy you exhibit from the kick-off of Relay to the luminary ceremony is a source of comfort to those of us lucky Survivors. Our future is in good hands with young people such as you in charge! Thank you so much for all of your efforts. Please keep up the good work!

Ruth Keller  
1 year Survivor



Dear Students,

I started my battle with breast cancer in September 2009 after a "routine" annual mammogram. I quickly learned that nothing is "routine" about the battle with cancer. Tests, procedures, doctor visits, white cell counts, fears, hopes and joys... there is nothing about cancer or, frankly, any serious illness, that is routine. The thing that I quickly and happily came to realize is that there is an overwhelming amount of support and love that cancer patients and survivors receive from the community at large. Your efforts are a shining example of that compassion, support and love.

Being surrounded by thousands of cheering students as my husband and I walked around the track during the 2010 Relay for Life was incredibly emotional. We were both very glad to be wearing sunglasses that day as our emotions were right on the surface. It is one of life's moments we will never forget, being cheered by all of your youthful energy and feeling very lucky to be at that particular place in our lives; that day and that moment.

Thank you for the contribution of your time, talent, heartfelt energy and emotion that you put in to support people like me. No matter whether it is as an individual or part of a group, realize that you have the power to make people feel better, feel loved, cherished, welcomed and supported..... all through your appreciated actions.

Thank you for your efforts and keep up the great work!

Sincerely,  
Kathy Magno  
15 Month Survivor



I am truly thankful for all the work that the students put in to raising money for cancer. When I arrived at the Relay for Life last year, I was overwhelmed by the number of students walking for cancer. I couldn't believe that they would want to take the time to raise money for people like me with cancer. It was amazing. They have inspired me to want to do more to help raise money so that researchers can find cures for this dreadful disease. THANK YOU!!!!

Linda West  
10 month Survivor

I wanted to write a letter expressing what impact the Relay has had on my life.

I'm not sure if you remember me from last year, I am the mom who never thought of myself as a SURVIVOR. It wasn't until I sat at the chaperone meeting that I started thinking about the whole "survivorship" aspect. I had Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare bone cancer in my back right pelvic bone and sacrum when I was 19 years old. I had almost 2 years of chemo and what turned out to be 6 months total of radiation. They did not even start treating this type of cancer until 10 years before I was diagnosed. Because I was 19, I was asked to be a part of an experimental protocol. With the results they researched with me, they currently use that protocol to treat Ewing's. They gave me 30% chance to live, that was 20 years ago. The doctors said I would never have any biological children, now I have 3 healthy miracles! God has been so good to me!

I am so thankful for the opportunity to experience a whole new sense of community. Relay has enlarged my view of what cancer is, what it has meant for me in my life and made me start thinking again of ways that I can share and give back to others in this new community of survivors and people who are currently undergoing treatment. My eyes were opened to the fact that I am a part of such a large group of courageous, determined people that have fought or are still fighting for their lives! That's empowering to me! It makes me so grateful for the chance to experience that!

I was amazed at the level of kindness and caring that the kids showed. It was awesome to see them "step out" of themselves so they could touch another person's life with hope and optimism. The warmth in the faces of the young girls who greeted me at the breakfast touched my heart. All the time and effort on the part of the kids and the teachers was an incredible thing to witness and be a part of! Relay has changed my life. I am so proud to say I have a son at Tohickon. Thank you all for the opportunity that you have given me! I am grateful to you.

Sincerely,  
Charleen Russo  
20 year Survivor



Dear CB Relay For Life Captain,

Thank you for taking a leading and inspirational role in this year's Relay For Life. Knowing that you are becoming involved at this time in your teen life shows me that not every teenager is "all about ME," that you actually care about this very important issue. This will be my fifth year to be involved in CB's Relay For Life. My father (a grandfather to three past and present students) passed away in 2008 from pancreatic cancer. This impacted our whole family. Thank you for all you are doing to make this another million dollar year for the CB Relay for Life!!!! YOU are making a difference!

Debbie Delaney



Dear Students of Central Bucks Middle Schools,

I continue to be inspired by all of the positive energy that each and every one of you bring to the Relay for Life every year. Your commitment and dedication to raising as much money as possible is greatly appreciated. Each year I attend the breakfast for survivors I am surrounded by giving people and many who have been through what I have been through. I also meet many long time survivors who have benefited from all of your efforts and it gives me hope in believing that I too can be a long time survivor. You are all amazing people.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen McConnell  
4 years this month



Thank you, Relay for Life captains and your teams for your plans to participate in the Central Bucks Middle School Relay for Life this coming May! I am a cancer survivor and have attended the Relay for Life each May, since 2006, when my daughter participated, as a 7th grader. Every year's relay has proven to be such an uplifting experience for me and my family! Your willingness to raise awareness and money for this cause is so appreciated and I know that you will find it to be a most rewarding experience! Thanks, again, and I look forward to attending this year's Relay for Life!

Pam Conway  
7 Year Survivor



My oldest son participated in Relay for Life before I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I remember thinking how wonderful it was to see all those teenagers "camping out" and walking the track for hours. Three years ago, I participated as a cancer survivor. Walking the victory lap with so many other survivors (young and old) was truly an emotional experience. After treatment, I went back to my everyday life because my kids were young and life goes on. I didn't really give it much thought- what I had just gone through. But being part of the survivor walk made me realize how blessed I was to be there.

So thank you to all for your hard work in raising so much money for cancer research. Our survivor walk is growing and stronger than ever.

Thanks again,  
Maria Careghini



As a cancer survivor I have been associated with overnight Relays, day walks, and even did the 3 day 60 mile walk two years ago, but the event that stands out in my mind is the one all of you put together. Your enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication to Relay amazes me more and more each year. With all the bad press that teenagers get today I would like everyone in Doylestown to be witness to what you kids do. I can not attend this year's event



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but you will be on my mind as you prepare and then walk on the big day. I am hoping my 7th grade grandson at Tohickon will become involved this year. Keep up the good work and know that all of us survivors truly appreciate your efforts.

Anne Boehringer  
5 year Survivor



Relay for Life is an amazing event and it couldn't be done without dedicated students. The sight of so many students putting forth such tremendous effort and energy for the fight against cancer is awe inspiring. It's as if I'm getting a hug from everyone there!

Kathleen McCarthy  
8 year Survivor and 4 year Survivor



Dear Students,

I have been fortunate enough to participate in Relay For Life both as a mother and as a cancer survivor. I have been overwhelmed every time I step onto the Tohickon track each May. I love walking around and seeing the creativity you have with your items for sale. The energy you create all day long is amazing and inspiring! I tear up every year when the luminaries are lit - it is such a special moment that is difficult to describe to someone who has not been there to witness it in person. My birthday falls very close to Relay each year and feel blessed to receive such special gifts - to be cancer free another year and to celebrate that gift with over 6,000 people. Thank you, students: Your passion and energy is a great gift that I cherish.

Mary Richardson  
12 year Survivor



It is very difficult to fight cancer alone. You really need the support of family, friends and community to fight this disease. I was fortunate to have all three. Rely for Life is a symbol of how a community can come together to provide support and hope for those affected with cancer. Funding is needed to advance medicine and providing greater support to patients. The work that Central Bucks Middle Schools have done to help in these areas is a true inspiration. Not everyone is going to find the cure for cancer, although I believe that someone in our community may, but everyone is capable of providing support and raising funds. Each dollar raised provides more hope that we are closer to finding a cure. Over \$1.2 million raised sends a strong message that our community has the heart, drive and generosity to provide support and hope to those affected by cancer.

Steve Curtis  
4 year Survivor





You rocked my world. I am a six year cancer survivor. I learned that when it comes to beating cancer, support from one's family and community is at least as important as the surgery and medicines. Seeing thousands of the best students in our community come out to encourage me and all the survivors to win this fight was awe-inspiring. You are making a real difference. You are saving lives!

David Presti  
6 year Survivor



"One of the best days of my life." That is how it was for me on my first Relay day in 2009. Taking a lap with no hair and after just finishing my treatments, I was awestruck feeling the hope and strength coming from all of you. For beating cancer, you have all you need. For life, you will make your own successful path. Keeping the positive spirit you have embraced will make anything possible!

I owe you, thank you!  
Nancy Presti  
2 year Survivor



Dear Relay for Life Captain,

My hope is that you and your team will never have to know the pain of cancer, physical or mental. Unfortunately I know the odds are that some of you will be touched very directly by this monster. With that in mind, my hope then becomes that you will know the kindness and generosity that we survivors know in people like you! It's more than the money you raise... while that is very important and will make a difference, more directly it is the way you make us feel. Knowing others care and feeling the strong outpouring the day of the Relay gives us all new strength to fight and carry on.

Thank You for all that you do to keep us strong!  
Marie McCrone  
8.5 year Survivor



Though my nephew and nieces have participated in your Relay for Life, last year was my first chance to attend as a cancer survivor. Wow, what an experience! I was moved to tears by the vast number of students who'd worked hard to raise money for the American Cancer Society and who supported and encouraged those of us who have been on the cancer journey.



I hope that neither you nor people you love are touched by cancer, but know that money you raise through the Relay for Life funds research that improves treatments and may one day lead to a cure for cancer.

Thank you!

Lani MacAniff

4.5 year Survivor and 2.5 year Survivor



I first experienced Relay as a middle school parent. My son, Joey, was an 8th grader when he asked me to become a chaperone. Of course I thought it was a great idea to raise money for cancer and I was happy he cared enough to participate. We had a great day. I found the kids to be compassionate, funny, and full of spirit and life-very refreshing. By the time Relay rolled around the following year, my role as a chaperone had changed; my son asked me to participate again, but this time I was walking as a cancer Survivor and my son walked as a caregiver. I couldn't have been happier to participate. Again I found the kids full of life. I did a lot of healing that day.

Life can change in a blink of an eye. You kids are the future; every penny you raise helps someone else become a survivor. Your compassion and spirit are contagious, and have changed me forever. Thank you, for all you have done, and all you will do.

Cindy Woll

3 year Survivor



The first time I came to a Survivor luncheon and assembly, I was so nervous to sit on stage with my bald head covered by my favorite scarf. I sat back and listened as Survivors spoke and was touched by their courage and willingness to share their story. I began to feel really good about participating in Relay. I didn't know what to expect from the students, and I have to say that when the actual day arrived - I was amazed!! Tons of volunteers, huge amounts of work and effort obviously went into planning, organizing and presenting this event, but what amazed me was... the KIDS!! There were SO MANY, and they came to get this done! Many walked and walked for hours, worked at raising funds right up to the end, and they were AWESOME! Those students gave me a gift - HOPE!! I realized that if all these wonderful kids were willing to give so much of themselves for me and others like me, then I was going to be fine! I knew I certainly wasn't alone. We can all learn a lesson from the kids who make Relay the success that it is.

Phyllis Mikolon

6 year Survivor



Relay for Life first came to my attention three years ago, when my daughter entered seventh grade. Since then, I have participated annually. Last year, when I watched the survivors kick off the walk, I had a funny feeling that I would be joining them. A few weeks later, I was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. Seven years ago, when the first Central Bucks Middle Schools Relay for Life was held, my diagnosis would have been a death sentence. Today, thanks to the efforts of people like you, I can look forward to several wonderful years with the people I love. My hope is that someday, events like Relay for Life will help fund a cure for this terrible disease. Thank you all for participating and making a difference.

Kimberly Meiser  
1 year survivor



I am an ovarian cancer survivor since 2006. I climbed Kilimanjaro twice and I am 71 years old. The second time I climbed it was in 2008. Because of the wonderful work these school students do, the message for hope for the future is not just for encouraging the perseverant people who deal with cancer – patients and care givers alike - but for stimulating confidence in all us – ESPECIALLY the young people.

Cathy Thorn  
5 year survivor



I just want to express my thanks to all who participate in the Relay for Life.

I am a survivor and really appreciate the enthusiasm you put into your work. When I come on the day of the Relay, I receive a very powerful feeling from other Survivors and the struggles they are facing.

The money that you raise provides the resource for continuing research and hope to all encounter this deadly disease. Keep in mind, the efforts you provide now may very well help someone you know in the future.

Flora Gray  
25 year Survivor