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Relay for Life

By: Michael Karlis
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May 20, 2017 -- A large group of participants attended Hopkinton's 11th annual Relay For Life at the high school track last night.

Relay For Life is an event to fundraise for the American Cancer Society. Teams walk the track all night, without sleep, to represent the suffering that a cancer patient endures during treatment.

The event is planned by a committee of high school students and takes eight months to plan. Last year's committee was discouraged by the lack of participants due to bad weather and torrential downpours, but this year relay enjoyed a cloudless night with temperatures in the mid 60's.

"Turn out is great. We raised a lot of money and we (the Relay For Life Committee) reached our goal of \$178,000" marketing committee chair senior Sachi Mehrotra said.

This years relay committee chair, senior Emma Relle, was also encouraged with the amount of support at this years Relay.

"There's a lot more energy and attendance is way up," said Relle.

Relay For Life has been a tradition in Hopkinton since 2007, when Carly Boyce brought the event to town. Her youngest sister, senior Cam Boyce, has been a relayer since the event began.

"I've been a part of it since 2007 and was Committee Chair last year," Boyce said. "My sisters have always been a big part of it and they've inspired me to continue to be a part of relay."

Boyce has been personally affected by cancer. Her grandmother, aunt, cousin, and friend have all had cancer.

"It's really important to keep relay going in Hopkinton. It's a great cause and it's important to raise money for cancer research because we don't have a cure," Boyce said.

Similar to Boyce, many relayers have been personally affected by cancer. Freshman Keelan Boyle's mother encouraged her to make a relay team this year. Boyle's mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer three years ago. Last week, Boyle and her family learned that the cancer had returned. With the help of her friends, Boyle created a relay team named *Rie Rie's Riot*, after her mother's nickname "Rie Rie."

"I'd say she's inspired not only Keelan's friends, but our whole grade to be involved in relay," freshman Kate Stauss said, who is a member of Boyle's team. "She's a really strong person," Stauss said.

Closing ceremonies for relay concluded at 5am. At that time, committee members must pick up the trash from participants.

"Pick up is the worst part," committee member senior Sid Shinde said. *Photo by Michael Karlis*