

Invest One Saturday Night in Helping to Cure Cancer

Join Me at Sports Complex April 24 for Peoria's 2010 Relay for Life

By Bob Barrett,

There is no shortage of things to do on a Saturday night in Peoria. You could eat dinner and see a movie along 83rd Avenue or at Park West; catch a live performance at Theater Works, the Arizona Broadway Theatre or Skye; or chow down and watch sports at an establishment such as FuNuGyz, Gallagher's or McDuffy's.

However, those are things you do for your own enjoyment. I would like you to set aside the evening of Saturday, April 24, for the benefit of others – many of them less fortunate than you and me. At 6 p.m. that evening, the 2010 Relay for Life gets under way at the Peoria Sports Complex. This all-night event, which takes place in communities across the United States and in 19 other countries, benefits the American Cancer Society. With every step, more than 3.5 million people a year help the society save lives. They also celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease.

At Peoria's Relay for Life, teams of people camp out at the sports complex and take turns walking or running around the stadium. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. This goes on all night because cancer never sleeps.

The only requirement to participate is a \$10 registration/commitment fee per person. After that, anything you raise through individual, team or online fundraising is graciously accepted. Each participant sets a personal goal to raise \$100. If you raise more, that's even better; if you don't, you are still welcome to participate. Last year, Peoria's Relay for Life raised more than \$215,000. This year's goal is \$250,000.

This cause is important to my wife and me. Between us, we've lost three of our four parents to cancer. And we're not alone. This disease, in its many varieties, touches families in Peoria, across the country and around the globe. Anything I can do to put an end to this, I will. I'm even going to have my head shaved at the event for the second year in a row. If that spectacle draws out one extra person, it will be worth it.

So, save the date: Saturday, April 24. Don't just pencil it in on your calendar; use a pen.

With your help, we will walk until 6 a.m. the next morning to cure every cancer in Peoria and every community. Each person who shares the relay experience can take pride in knowing that he or she is helping the American Cancer Society work toward a world in which this disease will never again claim another life.

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