

the Pulse of Summa

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On Your Mark, Get Set, Go To the Relay for Life

by Lin Danes

On your mark, get set and go — to the **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life**, which will be held at Copley High School, June 23 and 24. Last year, in addition to sponsoring the event, Summa Health System had one team join in the event — and they did a commendable job of raising donations for the fight. This year, Summa has decided to set an example for the community by remaining an event sponsor and by increasing its participation level.

"Last year I saw Sterling, which is a jewelry company, bring eight teams to the Relay," said **Stephanie Bailey, R.N., MSN, unit manager of oncology and diabetes education**. "They have massive participation from their organization and they are in an unrelated health care corporation. I wondered why we, as a health care provider, could not have huge participation as well. You could say that they became my inspiration last year."

Right after last year's Relay, at a monthly management session, **Patrice Lange, vice president of planning and corporate support**, asked Bailey how she could support her. "I'm trying to figure out a way to get more employee involvement for the Relay," responded Bailey. As a result, Summa has

committed to signing up eight teams for this year's event. And, this commitment is backed by senior management, management and employees.

"That conversation occurred just after corporate communications became one of my areas of responsibility," said Lange. "So, we started working with Stephanie to achieve that goal. We're getting the word out early, and senior managers are making a commitment to participate. We are also hoping employees will find the time to come and share in the event. This unified effort is an example of how team members can work together to reach a common goal. In this case, the goal is a natural fit with Summa's mission — to contribute to a healthier community."

So, what is Relay for Life? Relay for Life is about awareness, progress, hope and a cure for cancer. The event was started in 1985 when Gordon Klatt, M.D., a surgeon and an American Cancer Society volunteer, walked a total of 81 miles in 24 hours and raised \$27,000. Today, the event raises more than \$2 million each year to fight cancer. Relay teams of eight

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