

Fighting For a Cure

Local Relay for Life Event Helps to Raise Money For A Cause

Cancer; It sucks. As soon as the word is spoken, images of people balding in bandanas come to mind. And while this is true, cancer absolutely sucks, Relay for Life has brought back positive thinking to those affected by cancer everywhere.

In our small community, there are many Relay for Life teams. One very important team in our community is "Sista's For a Cure." Its members are Taylor Chaplin, JoEllen Reynolds, Eva Warren-Hill, Alexis Hill, Megan Hill, Tara Carlisle, Stephanie Sargent, and Josh Clemons (who is called "Mister Sister". Eva Warren-Hill is Orange County's Event Chair, and JoEllen Reynolds is Co-Chair. These eight people have been a part of Relay for Life for years, raising money to fight the disease.

This remarkable team has the courage to stand up in front of our entire school every year and try their best to ask for more help. They do not ask for pity. They never go up there with something to make

us cry. They come up telling about what fun that Relay for Life can be.

They talk about coming together, making friends, and having a big event with music, food, and games. They also organize all of



Right: Senior Taylor Chaplin smiles with a fellow relay participant.

Story by
Lindsay Begley

the "Coaches vs. Cancer" events at our school.

Orange County had 22 teams participate in the past year. Together, the 168 participants raised a total of \$17,820. Sista's For a Cure raised \$1,800 of this total.

"It was by far not our best," said member Taylor Chaplin.

Chaplin, a well-known senior here at PHS, has been on the team for twelve years. Her story begins when she was six years old, and her cousin Alexis Hill was diagnosed with leukemia. Her life became centered on the disease. She, along with her family, wanted to do something to help.

"Relay for Life is a way to give back and help those who have been touched by cancer without having to be the health care professional," said Chaplin.

Their team formed, and they have not looked back. However, more members have been added along the way. The goal of Sista's For a Cure is to keep fighting, and to keep encouraging others to join for the cause.

"EVERYONE has been affected by this disease in some form, especially our community. Our school has been touched by cancer in multiple ways, and I would love to see more student come support

and help fight back," said Chaplin.

Chaplin, who has been so close to the disease for such a long time, manages to keep positive. You will often see her with a smile.

Cancer has affected her life in many ways, but because of it, she knows exactly who she wants to be in life.

"I decided that I wanted to become a pediatric oncologist and haven't changed my mind since," said Chaplin.

The great thing about Relay for Life is, anyone can join. It does not matter how old someone is, as long as the leader of the group is over eighteen. Whether or not someone has personally been affected by cancer, they can help the cause. And they get to have fun while they do it.

"I love every part of Relay for Life. It is such an amazing, fun-filled time. I honestly can't decide my favorite part. Everything is just a wonderful experience and enjoyable," said Chaplin.

Every year, there are over four million people in twenty different countries that participate in Relay for Life. And while this large group of people raises money and spirits, more help is still needed. Cancer is not going away. Anyone can help fight the disease; it is as simple as joining a team and having a good time.

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Taylor Chaplin

Looking to Join?

- ★ Form a group of people willing to participate in fund raising and Relay for Life.
- ★ Raise \$100 as a group for a minimum fund raising entry fee.
- ★ Register your team for your event of choice, including the 2014 Orange County Relay for Life
- ★ Go to www.relayforlife.org, hover over to "My Relay" tab and click find an event

Any further questions about OC Relay for Life contact:
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