



Celebrate Celebration



May 30, 2006

Just 111 days until Celebration on the Hill 2006!

Why we're headed to Washington D.C.

Together, we are making the United States smoke-free!

Throughout the country, the Society is actively engaged in smoke-free campaigns, continuing its commitment to protecting the health of workers from the deadly effects of secondhand smoke. **A special thanks to the Society's hard work and volunteer dedication, Celebration on the Hill 2006 is to be held in a smoke-free city, our nation's Capitol.**

Washington, D.C. went smoke-free on April 4, 2006 and joined the ever-growing list of smoke-free communities, cities and states throughout our nation. New York City, Austin and Boston have adopted smoke-free policies, as have California, Florida, New Jersey, Washington State and, most recently, Colorado.

The Washington, D.C. Council passed smoke-free legislation that would make indoor workplaces in the nation's Capitol smoke-free. Restaurants in the District are included immediately, while bars will be smoke-free starting in January of 2007.

To find out if your community, city or state is currently working on smoke-free legislation, contact your Relay Advocacy Chair or local Government Relations staffer today!

The Power of Wall of Hope

By Rick Sowers, Relay Manager, Great Valley Region, California Division

I want to share a Wall of Hope banner story with you from my Delano event that emphasizes why we do what we do and why we Relay. A mother in Delano was one of the two community sponsors for our banner. Her son, a cancer survivor from age 6 or 7 is now going to be 20 years old next month. She sponsored the banner in honor of her son and for a birthday celebration. At the final meeting this week, I asked her if it would be alright to reveal the banner to the committee (of which she is a part). She graciously agreed and thought it would be the perfect time to start to display the banner. Her son is a team captain and was also there since it was our last bank night.

When my Mission Delivery partner and I revealed the banner, the excitement of everyone in the room was amazing — that is every one except Zach (whose name was on the banner). He was busy yakking as usual with his group. Someone told him that he needed to turn around and look. When he did, his eruption of emotion left not a single dry eye in the room. I realized more than ever why we are here and what we are all about.

National volunteers and staff get behind banners

The Celebration on the Hill Task Force and Operations Team met May 1 – 2 in Washington, D.C. The group passed a hat and raised \$1,000 to sponsor their very own banner. The Relay Advisory Team did the same thing at a March meeting in Salt Lake City. Banners have also been sent to the National Home Office and the Nationwide Executive Team meeting and those donations are rolling in! These banners will be part of a miniature Wall of Hope to be constructed in the lobby at the National Home Office for viewing. In August these banners will make their way to Washington, D.C. to join the other thousands of banners on the National Mall.



Speaker Seth Hammett signs the Wall of Hope

Alabama State House hosts the Wall of Hope

By Ginny Campbell, Government Relations Director, Alabama

On the final day of the 2006 Legislative Session, two Wall of Hope banners were displayed on the sixth floor of the Alabama State House from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. One banner was sponsored by the Alabama Press Association and Auburn University Foundation in memory of the late Rep. Jack Venable. Mr. Venable served more than 25 years in the House of Representatives, and most recently was the Chair of the House Rules Committee. He passed away last fall after a battle with leukemia. Most of the House members, senators, lobbyists and House of Representative staff members eagerly signed the banner to show their respect for Mr. Venable.

A second banner was purchased by friends of lobbyist Danne Howard to memorialize her father, Charles Jordan. Mr. Jordan died of bone cancer three years ago. His wife Helen is a much admired staff member of the House of Representatives where she serves as the Clerk to the House Judiciary Committee.

The event offered an opportunity not only to show love and respect for two who have battled cancer, but to talk about American Cancer Society programs and events such as Celebration on the Hill, Relay For Life and Wall of Hope sponsorships.

Points of Pride: North Dakota

States will show what they're proud of while on the track at Celebration on the Hill. Here's a sneak peek at the good things happening in North Dakota.

Mission Points:

- Passed statewide smoke-free air legislation
- North Dakota legislature changed Intractable Pain Treatment Act language to provide immunity for physicians who prescribe opioid analgesics for pain management.
- Protected Master Settlement funds for tobacco cessation programs

Relay Points:

- 27 Events
- 855 Teams
- 2,000 Survivors
- 49% Increase in Income
- 2 National Per Capita Winners

Wall of Hope Banner shipping deadline: August 14

After acquiring all those signatures on your community's Wall of Hope banner, be sure to display it in your community. It is truly a source of pride! But don't forget to package it and ship it to Washington, D.C. before August 14 so that it can become part of the Wall of Hope monument on the Mall spanning four city blocks! No community should be left behind.

Spotlight: Eric Thompson, Ph.D., Arizona Ambassador



Over 800 students at the Relay For Life of Arizona State University were drawn toward the stage as Dr. Eric Thompson began to speak about his experience with the American Cancer Society – both as a researcher and now as a Celebration On The Hill Ambassador.

The very first grant proposal Dr. Thompson submitted in his research career was deemed outstanding by the American Cancer Society. Unfortunately there were not adequate funds to support his project and therefore he became a “pay-if grantee.” When a donor in California heard of his studies, the project was immediately funded through their personal donation and he began to put his project into action in 2002. He was well on his way to research the effects of the MUC1 gene and how its overproduction connects to cancer.

Like most of the students attending the Relay For Life event, Dr. Thompson had been touched by cancer. He told the story about his grandfather and his wife’s grandmother, who both had been affected. Dr. Thompson is grateful to have been selected as an American Cancer Society Celebration on the Hill Ambassador. He will travel to D.C. with thousands of ambassadors to advocate for increased funding in cancer research.

Spotlight: George Flowers, Indiana Ambassador

George Flowers is a 2006 Celebration Ambassador from Evansville, IN. George is a prostate cancer survivor who first came in contact with the American Cancer Society through Man to Man, where he continues to support newly diagnosed prostate cancer patients. George attended Celebration on the Hill in 2002, and is excited to return to Washington, D.C. Since Celebration on the Hill 2002, he has advocated at the Indiana Statehouse and in his own municipality for smokefree air ordinances and policy change to reduce healthcare disparities among minority populations.



Celebration Ambassador Training Update

Phase two of the Society’s three-part Celebration Ambassador training program is taking place during June when nearly 400 Great West Division Celebration Ambassadors gather for a day-long training to learn more about the lobbying activities of September 19 and 20. To accommodate all the Great West Ambassadors, the trainings are scheduled in Seattle, Phoenix and Denver.

The focus of the training will encompass **three** specific legislative asks at Celebration: 1) endorsing “The Cancer Promise,” 2) increased funding for cancer research, and 3) re-authorization and increased funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Ambassadors will also learn a follow-up concept to Hook, Line and Sinker called *Preparing for the Opposition*. Also on the agenda is information about specific grassroots recess activities, media training, Celebration logistics and much more!

Given the magnitude of managing the logistics for Celebration on the Hill all over the country, our national office has experienced several challenges with the electronic registration process for both the trainings and the September event. One by one we are overcoming the challenges and, as we do, we appreciate your patience. In the grand scheme of things – serving as Ambassadors and making our voices heard on The Hill during Celebration on the Hill – we hope you agree that these challenges are simply inconveniences that we can move beyond.

All official Great West Division Celebration Ambassadors may have received an email with a direct link to the June training registration site. Please use that information to make your arrangements. If you need help or support with registration once you receive your email, please contact your Grassroots Manager or State Government Relations Director.

For more information about Celebration on the Hill visit www.celebrationonthehill.org

To share a room or not to share? In an effort to send as many Ambassadors to Washington, D.C. as possible while using our donor dollars most efficiently, it became necessary to secure rooms based on double occupancy (two Ambassadors in each room). Each Great West Ambassador has options: 1) identify another Great West Ambassador as a roommate, 2) identify a family member, caretaker, friend as their roommate, or 3) choose to room as a single. Options #2 and #3 will result in the Ambassador paying an extra fee. More details will follow. In the interim, feel free to talk with your Government Relations grassroots manager for information.

Community Voices CAN! – An Evening on the Hill

Come join thousands of advocates, volunteers and Celebration on the Hill Ambassadors for a powerful evening of inspiration, entertainment and food. Together, our voices CAN make a difference in Washington, DC! Space is limited for these events ... purchase your tickets online at www.celebrationonthehill.org.

- First Event:** **CANdid Conversations**
An Intimate Meet & Greet
- Time: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Cost: \$1000.00 *This ticket will get you into all three events!
Space is VERY limited at this private event, so get your tickets today!
Food & Drink: Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, soda and open-bar
You will have the opportunity to listen to, and engage with, nationally renowned political leaders in an intimate environment. More details to come!
- Second Event:** **CANpaign for Change**
A Private Reception
- Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Cost: \$250 per person Space is limited at this private event, so get your tickets today!
*This ticket will admit you to The CAN Opener Rally as well!
Food & Drink: Elegant finger food, soda, beer and wine
Come see and hear from national leaders on the fight against cancer. Live entertainment. More details to come!
- Third Event:** **CAN Opener: The Rally!**
“Thousands of voices coming together to switch on the power of purple”
- Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Cost: \$65 per person before August 31st
\$100 on September 1st or later
Food & Drink: Tex-Mex Dinner Buffet, bottled water and sodas. Cash bar.
Live entertainment, awards, multimedia presentations, silent auctions and more! Featuring a “National convention-style” environment, where you can easily meet-up with thousands of your fellow attendees. More details to come!

We're connected via CelebrationSpace!

An interactive feature on www.celebrationonthehill.org is connecting staff and Celebration Ambassadors -- **CelebrationSpace** -- a discussion forum. With public access, CelebrationSpace will serve as the communication conduit between ambassadors and staff attending Celebration on the Hill. From across the country, across the state, or across a congressional district, by using CelebrationSpace, Celebration Ambassadors will begin getting to know each other in the next few weeks and will become old friends by the time they reach Washington, D.C. in September! CelebrationSpace will house an exchange of ambassador stories, survivor narratives, and esteemed memories. It will be the central source of information about key legislative issues, personal tips for managing the Metro, the definition of Hook, Line & Sinker, and the building of the Wall of Hope.

Make www.celebrationonthehill.org your one-stop source for Celebration information! Connect to **CelebrationSpace** at www.celebrationonthehill.org. Register. Tell your story! Get Acquainted!

For more information about Celebration on the Hill visit www.celebrationonthehill.org