



Celebrate Celebration



May, 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.

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 capital.

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

The Washington, D.C., Council passed legislation that would make indoor workplaces in the nation's capital 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 advocacy 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, will 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 everyone 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.



Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman is among the first to sign the American Cancer Society's Wall of Hope banner at an event in Lincoln, Neb.

Wall of Hope Debuts in Nebraska

Reprinted from Lincoln's KOLN 10 11 News Web site:

From the State Capitol in Lincoln to Capitol Hill, a banner of hope supporting federal funding of cancer research will travel across the country.

Gov. Dave Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem were the first to sign the American Cancer Society Wall of Hope. Now the banner is off to Washington, D.C. Kids at the capitol added their names to the banner, all part of the "Celebration on the Hill 2006."

Thousands, like breast cancer survivor Sandi Ellenwood, will gather in Washington, D.C., to support cancer programs and research.

"We need the help, we need the funding, desperately. The research that is going forward now is so important and there's such a big danger of losing it," Ellenwood said.

Pat Yahnke is also going to Washington. Her sister is a breast cancer survivor, so she's speaking out.

"To make our voices heard in Washington and to let our government know that funding for research for cancer is so vitally important," Yahnke said.

The Lincoln banner is just one of 52 banners from Nebraska going to D.C. on September 19.

Yahnke says Nebraska's banners will join 5,000 more from across the nation.

"We hope that they hear us and see us. There's going to be over 10,000 of us in Washington in September and I think they might get the hint," Yahnke said.

Ellenwood believes the trip to Washington will make a difference. She wants everyone to know about programs like "Every Woman Matters," a federally funded program helping under-insured woman get the medical care they need.

"I know there are thousands who don't know this is available and I'm struggling to keep it available. I get emotional," Ellenwood said.

Before it heads to Washington, D.C., the banner will be in Omaha on June 4 for Cancer Survivor Day. On June 11, it will go to the Lincoln Children's Zoo.



Oklahoma Ambassador Also Talented Performer

Performing professionally since the age of 11, Rusti Love is music in its purest form. She was raised in country music, showered with rhythm and blues, and layered with echoes of jazz and soul. She released her first album in junior high and her last album, *Live Underground*, received accolades of awards, including best blues act in

Oklahoma in 2003. Rusti has performed on stages across the country, including Los Angeles and New York, with her latest sold-out concert at Tulsa's Performing Arts Center.

She is currently working on her fourth project, titled *Rag Doll*, to be released in 2007. Rusti works during the day as the entertainment manager for Cherokee Casino in Oklahoma.

Rusti is a 10-year breast cancer survivor as well. Since being diagnosed, she has become more than a survivor, she has become a warrior for cancer awareness. Rusti created two nonprofit organizations, Breast Fest and Mardi Bra, to spread the message of awareness to the youth of America by producing annual concert events. The national recording group NO DOUBT also invited her to spread her message throughout the nation on their Rock Steady tour. She has opened for such greats as Waylon Jennings, Neil McCoy, and Michael Murphy.

Her most recent achievement was being selected as a legislative ambassador for the American Cancer Society. In September 2005, Rusti went to D.C. and met with her Congressman. During the meeting, she made such an impact that he not only signed onto the 2015 promise, but he keeps in regular contact with her. Rusti's story touched him so deeply that he picked up the phone and called a friend so Rusti could obtain the second opinion she had been trying desperately to schedule. Her second opinion confirmed what she had suspected; her cancer had returned making this her fourth battle with this disease. But that isn't where the story ends, for Rusti it is just another curve in the road. As she says, "I've lost my breast, but I will not lose hope. I lost my health, but I will not lose faith. I will live and I will live loud."

Rusti is pictured above singing at an American Cancer Society training in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Celebration Ambassador Training Update

Phase two of the Society's three-part Celebration Ambassador training program is kicking off June 10 in Los Angeles and Phoenix. Celebration Ambassadors will gather at numerous cities throughout the summer to take part in this important phase. Ambassadors from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Nebraska will take part in this training on **July 15 in Kansas City**. A registration email will be disseminated the beginning of June.

The primary objective of this training is to prepare Celebration Ambassadors for the day of Celebration lobbying activities and build upon the important concepts rolled-out in the preliminary training.

Phase two will focus on three specific legislative tasks at Celebration:

1. Endorsing "The Cancer Promise"
2. Increasing funding for cancer research
3. Re-authorizing and increasing 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*. In addition, they will be taught specific grassroots recess activities, media training, Celebration logistics, and much more!

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, D.C.!

First Event:	CANdId Conversations – An Intimate Meet & Greet
Time:	5 to 6 p.m.
Cost:	\$1,000 per person. *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 an open-bar.
Event Details:	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 to 6:30 p.m.
Cost:	\$250 per person. *This ticket will admit you to The CAN Opener Rally as well! Space is limited at this private event, so get your tickets today!
Food & Drink:	Elegant finger food, soda, beer, and wine.
Event Details:	Come see and hear from national leaders on the fight against cancer. Live entertainment and more details to come!
Third Event:	CAN Opener: The Rally! – "Thousands of voices coming together to switch on the power of purple"
Time:	6 to 8 p.m.
Cost:	\$65 per person before August 31; \$100 per person on September 1 or later.
Food & Drink:	Tex-Mex dinner buffet, bottled water, soda, and a cash bar.
Event Details:	Live entertainment, awards, multimedia presentations, silent auctions, and more! Featuring a "National convention-style" environment, where you can easily meet thousands of your fellow attendees. More details to come!

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

Registration Site Active

Registration invitations have been emailed to all Ambassadors in the High Plains Division. If you have not received your registration email, please send a note to brian.yarbrough@cancer.org. To qualify for "early bird" registration, please complete your registration form by May 31. All registrations must be completed by June 15 and the registration Web site will close at the end of June.

If you are having any technical trouble with the registration process, please contact the registration vendor, Starcite, at 1.877.881.0002.

You will receive a separate email registration for the July 15 Ambassador Training the first of June. The next issue of Logistics Q&A will be sent to Ambassadors on June 2. Any updates and new information will be shared in that email.

Spotlight on Donald Woodson, Kansas City, Kan. Ambassador



“I was diagnosed with oral cancer during a regular dental check-up. I went through the process of having part of the floor of my mouth, 25 percent of my tongue, and all my teeth and saliva glands removed. I also endured 35 very painful radiation treatments.”

“That was six years ago and I believe I am alive in part due to early detection. I know that during the process there are a lot of ups and downs. The best thing one has when dealing with cancer is the friends and family that are there to care for you.”