



Celebrate Celebration



August 2006

Why we're headed to Washington D.C.

Michigan and Connecticut Representatives First to Sign the ACS CAN Congressional Cancer Promise

Celebration on the Hill 2006 will take place in Washington, D.C. on September 19 and 20, but Celebration Ambassadors are already paving the way to success by encouraging their lawmakers to sign the *American Cancer Society Cancer Action NetworkSM (ACS CAN) Congressional Cancer Promise*. The Promise outlines the steps Congress must take in the near term to put the country on track toward accomplishing the nation's challenge goal of eliminating suffering and death from cancer by 2015. By signing the Congressional Cancer Promise, lawmakers commit to working to elevate prevention, early detection and survivorship, increase the nation's commitment to research, and expand access to healthcare.

The first two lawmakers to sign the ACS CAN Congressional Cancer Promise include:

Congressman Dale Kildee (Michigan) – At a district meeting with Celebration Ambassadors in July, Rep. Kildee was the first member to sign the Congressional Cancer Promise. He also showed his support by signing the Relay For Life Wall of Hope.

Congressman Rob Simmons (Connecticut) – Rep. Simmons was the second member to sign the Congressional Cancer Promise during a district visit from Celebration Ambassadors in Norwich, CT.

As other lawmakers sign the Promise, their names will be added to a list on www.acscan.org.

During their meetings with lawmakers, Celebration Ambassadors are also emphasizing two key items in the Cancer Promise: the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and federal funding for cancer research and programs.

Celebration on the Hill: Click to Connect

As Celebration on the Hill trainings continue across the nation, Ambassadors are learning the power of sharing their stories with each other... and what a difference those stories will make when we come together in Washington, D.C. on September 20th. Don't forget that you can connect with Ambassadors from your own state or district team as well as those from all across America by visiting www.celebrationonthehill.org. Just click on the map on the left navigation bar on the home page, and then click the "Visit the Celebration Space" button at the bottom of the page. You'll only need to perform a simple registration to get started sharing your experiences with other Celebration on the Hill Ambassadors.

Research in Action

Cancer Prevention Study-3 Enrollment at Celebration on the Hill

The American Cancer Society's Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance Research is launching a new historic research study, the Cancer Prevention Study-3. The Society's Cancer Prevention Studies first

began in the 1950's and have significantly contributed to tobacco-related research, and the understanding of obesity, diet, physical activity, hormone use, air pollution, and various other exposures in relation to cancer and other disease risk. The 3rd Cancer Prevention Study will help us better understand the lifestyle, behavioral, environmental and genetic factors that cause or prevent cancer and put us one step closer to ultimately eliminating cancer as a major health problem for this and future generations.

The goal of the Cancer Prevention Study-3 is to enroll 500,000 adults from various geographic and racial/ethnic backgrounds across the U.S. The study will follow men and women between the ages of 30 and 65 years who have never been diagnosed with cancer. Participants will complete a brief survey and provide a waist measurement and a small blood sample. Participants will then be asked to complete a follow-up questionnaire every few years for the next 20 to 30 years.

Interested individuals will have the unique opportunity to demonstrate **research in action** by enrolling in the study during Celebration on the Hill 2006 in Washington, D.C. Enrollment will take place at the Convention Center and on the National Mall. Please visit www.cancer.org/cps3 to get more information about the study and to find out the most up-to-date enrollment times and locations during Celebration on the Hill.

Did You Know?

Did you know that there is no "J" Street in Washington, DC and that there is more than one Reflecting Pool in our nation's capital? (Legend has it that some supporters at Celebration on the Hill 2002 first went to the reflecting pool in front of the Lincoln Memorial to register, since that is the landmark more people are familiar with.) You can learn more about the impressive sights you'll see while in Washington, D.C. – as well familiarize yourself with the geography you'll be visiting – by checking out DC on the Web.

According to the National Park Service web site (<http://www.nps.gov/nacc/home.htm>), National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) is responsible for over 1,000 acres of the most significant natural and cultural resources in the United States. The sites of NAMA are cherished symbols of our nation, known worldwide and depicted on everything from currency to the nightly news. Located in the core of the nation's capital, NAMA administers, interprets, maintains and preserves the Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House, the National Mall, East and West Potomac Parks, Constitution Gardens, 60 statues, and numerous other historic sites, memorials, and parklands.

You're going to be in one of the most acclaimed cities in the world. Take time to appreciate all that's there. You can find more information about Washington, DC by visiting www.washington.org.

Celebration Honorary Co-Chairs Named

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network would like to thank and recognize all of the Celebration on the Hill Honorary Co-Chairs. These U.S. Senators and Representatives have and continue to be strong supporters of ACS CAN and our mission:

Representative Dennis Hastert, Representative John Boehner, Representative Nancy Pelosi, Representative Deborah Pryce, Representative Steve Israel, Representative Sue Myrick, Representative Lois Capps, Representative Clay Shaw, Representative Collin Peterson, Senator Bill Frist, Senator Harry Reid, Senator Sam Brownback, Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Spotlight on: Raette Hearne, Ambassador, Austin



Raette was diagnosed with breast cancer on July 15, 1997—thirty years to the day after the death of her mother from cancer. She received an American Cancer Society Reach to Recovery visit after her surgery and completed her treatments in 1998. Raette took Tamoxifen for five years, a drug developed by three researchers funded by the American Cancer Society in 1978 to aid in the prevention of recurrence of breast cancer.

Raette works to spread the message of hope to others, especially in the African-American community where breast cancer mortality rates are higher compared to other ethnic groups. She was instrumental in launching the Tell A Friend Sunday program at her church and other faith-based groups. She helped plan the first Relay For Life event for the African-American community at Huston-Tillotson College in 2002 and chaired the event in 2003.

“Just tell me where to be and what to do, and I’ll do it,” Raette says. She will be at the Celebration on the Hill to

meet with her member of Congress. You probably remember Raette from the Ambassador training in Dallas where she spoke from the podium and encouraged everyone to create an ACS CAN personal page and to ask friends and family members for support.

Light the Path to a Cure in DC



The pictures of more than 16,000 luminaria illuminating the path around the Capitol Reflecting Pool during Celebration on the Hill 2002 are hard to forget. Not only did each candle burning send yet another message to our lawmakers about the strength and passion of volunteers committed to the fight against cancer, they represented the lives of loved ones from across the country who have battled cancer. You can remember someone lost to cancer or honor someone who has faced the disease by purchasing a luminaria to be lit at Celebration on the Hill 2006. Visit www.celebrationonthehill.org for more information.

Celebration on the Hill Training Update

As of July 22nd, approximately 2100 Volunteer & Staff Ambassadors were trained on the issues that the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network will take to Congress on September 20th. In addition to the legislative issues, almost half of all Ambassadors nationwide received advanced training in grassroots action and media advocacy centered on these issues. We're at the halfway point on our quest to train over 4000 Ambassadors and staff representing all 435 United States Congressional Districts, making Celebration On The Hill an unprecedented event in the history of cancer advocacy.



Relay For Life Wall of Hope Continues to Grow

As many legislators in DC head home for Summer Recess, Ambassadors continue getting the Wall of Hope banners in front of their elected officials. That means more awareness AND more signatures!

State Representative Edmund Kuempel (R-Seguin) signs the Wall of Hope banner at the Seguin Relay For Life event.

Community Voices CAN! – An Evening on the Hill

It's the place to be Tuesday, September 19th! Come join thousands of advocates, volunteers and Celebration Ambassadors for fun night of dinner, entertainment, national political figures, sports celebrities and stories of survival.

Please join us for any or all of the three taking place on the evening of September 19, 2006 – **CANdid Conversations** (with Senator Clinton, Speaker Gingrich and Sam Donaldson), **CANpaign for Change**, featuring sports celebrities, and **The CAN Opener Rally!** A fun opportunity to get together with your friends for dinner and entertainment in a National CANvention atmosphere.

To learn more about each of these events, and to purchase tickets, please visit www.celebrationonthehill.org

Together, our voices CAN make a difference in Washington, D.C.

Q&A from Ambassador Training (collected from Ambassadors)

Relay

- Can guests walk the track with Ambassadors?
Yes, as with any Relay, the more on the track the better.
- Can we walk on the track anytime, or only when we signed up?
Judi Hejny
Yes, you can walk at any time in addition to your scheduled time slot. The walking schedule is used primarily to ensure that we have someone from our state on the track throughout Celebration.

ACS CAN

- If I have already recruited ACS CAN members, how do I get credit for that on the web page? How are CAN members tracked? Are there ACS CAN's lapel pins?
To get credit towards the drawing for a capitol dome tour, it would need to be new members since September 1, 2005 (through August 31, 2006). Please give your staff ambassador a list of the individuals you recruited so we can verify the total number against ACS CAN records. We do not have a supply of ACS CAN lapel pins but perhaps at the CAN fundraisers on September 19th they will have some for attendees.
- Early record keeping on ACS CAN members recruited was not always credited to the ambassador. What can be done to ensure that I get credit? Also, how do we know how many we have signed up to join?
Please see the Q&A above.
- If an individual donates more than \$5 to ACS CAN, is the entire amount not tax deductible or is the full \$5 not tax deductible? Is there a way to refund the excess?
No contributions to ACS CAN are tax deductible, because it is not a charitable organization. While ACS CAN works on public policies that contribute to the public good, it is not the same type of organization as the ACS and therefore memberships and contributions are not tax deductible.
- I created a personal web page but people cannot join CAN through it. They can only sign the petition and donate.
Vickie Knight
When someone donates through your web page (at whatever level at least \$5 or more), they are asked if they want to become a member so they are given that opportunity.
- The whole basket concept is unclear. Is it a silent auction? Where should we send our donated items?
It will be a silent auction of "goody" filled baskets from each state as well as other items at the CANopener rally in DC on September 19th. Donated items should be mailed by August 31st to Sarah Garcia at the American Cancer Society, 2433-A Ridgepoint Drive, Austin, TX 78754.

Advocacy Questions

- Why did Kevin Brady decide not to sign the 2015 letter?
Rhonda Brown
Last year we did not have the same type of organized, focused effort around the 2015 letter as we do this year with Celebration on the Hill ambassador teams urging their Representatives to sign the Congressional Cancer Promise. The 2015 letter has been retired, so the goal for Celebration is to get as many Members of Congress as possible to sign the Congressional Cancer Promise, which builds on last year's 2015 letter.
- Kevin Brady did not sign the 2015 letter. He is a Relayer as well as his family and he should have understood the importance. Can we still urge him to get on board or it too late?
Margai Bass
Please see response above.

- Do we know if we have 100% support for our 2015 goal in the Texas House and the Texas Senate? If not, who are our supporters?
The 2015 goal (eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by the year 2015) is a federal issue and as such we have not asked members of the Texas Legislature to sign on. We continue to advocate for policies on the state level, however, that are in direct support of the 2015 goal. This includes efforts to secure increased funding for the Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and increased funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.
- When you say reauthorize... when was the program originally authorized?
The Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection program was first authorized (created) in 1990 and this is the first year it is up for reauthorization, which means Congress will evaluate the program and determine at what level to fund it.

Logistical questions

- Is the Metro pass good for just Tuesday and Wednesday? Do we get a pass for Thursday?
You will receive a 2 day pass for the metro and a 2 day pass for the DC Circulator Bus.
- Can you let Metro know that we'll be in town so they can step up shuttles and busses in the area?
Our National office is handling those logistics.
- Can Ambassadors get packets for guests, or do they have to be present?
Each person will need to present their ID in order to receive their packet.
- Can your friends and family attend the event, or is it only for the ones who registered and paid \$100?
Anyone can attend the event but only those registered will be able to receive the food and beverages.
- What is the deadline to change my airline itinerary? Now that the schedule has been publicized, my plans need to change.
Any changes need to be made ASAP as flights are filling up.
- I need to know if there will be transportation to and from BWI airport.
We are working on transportation from the airports. This info will be communicated later through your staff ambassador.

To see logistical information slides shown at the Ambassador Training, please visit this website: <http://www.acsf2f.com/files/Ambassador Info-Logistics.ppt>