




# Celebrate Celebration



## Why We're Headed to D.C.

Every single ambassador headed to Washington, D.C. as part of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's Celebration on the Hill has their own story to tell. Each has a personal reason for continuing to carry our message to Congress. As a group, we are committed to making legislators accountable for their part in the fight against cancer.

As you may know, the current administration set their own 2015 goal: to *eliminate cancer*. If that's the case, nearly across-the-board cuts to programs that will help defeat cancer are not acceptable.



**President's Proposed FY 2007 Budget**

<b>National Institutes of Health</b>	<b>No New Funding</b>
<b>National Cancer Institute</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Cancer Program</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>Comprehensive Cancer Control Initiative</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>National Cancer Registries Program</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>National Breast &amp; Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>Colorectal Cancer Screening, Education &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>Skin Cancer Prevention Programs</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>Prostate Cancer Awareness Campaign</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>Ovarian Cancer Awareness</b>	<b>CUT</b>
<b>Geraldine Ferraro Blood Cancer Program</b>	<b>CUT</b>

While all of the programs listed are critical, one important focus area of Celebration on the Hill 2006 is funding for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. (NBCCEDP) This vital program helps low-income, uninsured and underinsured women gain access to life-saving breast and cervical cancer screenings and tests. However, there is currently only enough federal funding to screen one in five eligible women.

The American Cancer Society is urging Congress to restore the NBCCEDP funds they cut last year, to reject the President's proposed budget cuts and dedicate an additional \$45 million to the program. The Society is also asking Congress to reauthorize the program which will allow for greater program flexibility in reaching the women in greatest need, thus making it possible to give at least an additional 130,000 eligible women access to these screenings.

With these two huge asks we need your help! During Congress' St. Patrick's Day Recess (March 20-24) the Society and our Ambassadors will be involved in numerous activities to make our voices heard and lobby for all low-income, uninsured and underinsured women. Please contact your local ACS Advocacy staffer to take action and save lives.

## Spotlight on: Carla Lynch, Gladewater, Texas



Ambassador Carla Lynch from Gladewater is ready to speak with her member of Congress about cancer at Celebration on the Hill, and Carla's voice will be heard. When Carla speaks, it's pretty obvious as to the type of cancer she had--cancer of the larynx.

However, her diagnosis wasn't as obvious. For four years prior to hearing the words "you have cancer," her only symptom was chronic hoarseness. Since larynx cancer is most often associated with smoking and given the fact that she had never smoked, she firmly believes that second-hand smoke contributed to her diagnosis.

Carla underwent surgery and

Although, cancer took her larynx, and she now breathes through a permanent hole in her neck, cancer did not win.

With her larynx and vocal cords removed, she couldn't speak at all. With a thousand questions in her head and no voice with which to ask those questions, Carla turned to her computer and the American Cancer Society's website, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org), for answers. "There I found information about my cancer and alternative methods of regaining the ability to speak. I also discovered Relay For Life and signed up to be a volunteer," she says. "American Cancer Society and Relay For Life have provided me with many opportunities to make a difference in the fight against cancer. And now I have another opportunity: Celebration on the Hill. I may never be a contestant on American Idol, but I have a voice...a voice of Hope."

## Ambassador Trainings Underway Across Texas!

In March almost 200 Ambassadors and Alternate Ambassadors participated in the first of two trainings to prepare for Celebration on the Hill and to learn more about being an effective advocate long after the event. LAPEL trainings, (Legislative Ambassadors Performing Excellent Leadership) have already taken place in Fort Worth, El Paso, San Antonio, Houston, Corpus Christi, Denton, Lufkin and Waco... and several more are scheduled.

### Dates and locations of upcoming LAPEL trainings

Beaumont	6-Apr	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	American Cancer Society office
Dallas	8-Apr	9:00 AM - 11:00 PM	American Cancer Society office
Lubbock	11-Apr	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	American Cancer Society office
Midland	11-Apr	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	American Cancer Society office
Austin	13-Apr	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	American Cancer Society office

THANK YOU to those who have taken time from their busy schedules to complete the training, and to those who are planning to attend. The LAPEL training is designed to provide the foundation needed to begin Ambassador responsibilities and is required of all Ambassadors and Alternate Ambassadors.



Left: The Celebration Ambassador team for Congressman Henry Bonilla takes time from the San Antonio LAPEL training to personally share how cancer has touched their lives. Below: Celebration Ambassadors from the Gulf Coast Region gather at the recent Houston LAPEL training. Celebration Ambassadors from the Gulf Coast Region gather at the recent Houston LAPEL training.



## Wall of Hope Continues to Grow

Communities and Relay For Life events across the nation are continuing to use the Wall of Hope as a tool for connecting more residents of their hometown to the efforts of local Ambassadors. Check out some of the Wall of Hope success stories that continue to flow in.

### **Banner Success Stories:**

From Laura Varney, Executive Director, West Hawaii Office - We completed our first calendar year Relay For Life @ Kealahou High School on February 12th. Here are our experiences:

- We first introduced the banner at our final Team Captains meeting and had our Committee Chairs sign it in front of the group. This was very powerful and emotional for the chairs as well as the group of Team Captains.
- We also had a rolling float shaped like a house that was built to pull in our local parade in December. We attached the banner to it and planted it outside our Survivor Reception with our "Uncle Sam" volunteer. We trained the volunteer about the banner and equipped him with pens.
- At the event, the survivors were all asked to sign first and then the Wall was transported around the field to the team tents for signatures. This was all prior to opening ceremonies.
- After opening ceremonies and our survivor victory lap, the WOH was then pulled around the track behind the parade of teams and finally parked near the entrance to the event for newcomers to sign. It was very well received and I look forward to doing the same at future events.

From the Relay Advisory Team Meeting, Salt Lake City – At the recent National Relay For Life Advisory Team Meeting in Salt Lake City, Co-Chairs Mimi Hable and Steve Pressley, challenged their team to come together and buy their own Wall of Hope banner. In less than one hour, donations of cash and checks were gathered, reaching the goal of \$1,000 and the right to take a banner to Washington, DC. Thanks RATS – you're the best!

## Wall of Hope Sponsorship Update

Local banner sales are definitely picking up and Relay season is just around the corner – look for your local banner at a Relay event in your community soon! As of March 3, we have secured close to 21 percent of our potential sponsorship, with Great Lakes already at 70 percent of their banners sold. Kudos to all of you in the Great Lakes Division that are working so hard to make this happen. And a great big THANK YOU to ALL of our sponsors nationwide who are making this Wall of Hope possible!



*(Artist rendering – actual design may vary)*

**Sign your local Wall of Hope banner and encourage others to do the same. Be a part of this impressive monument and make your voice heard in Washington, DC.**

## **Coming Soon! Celebration on the Hill Goes Virtual**

Watch for news very soon about some exciting online developments for Celebration on the Hill 2006. On the horizon are the launch of a interactive internet site completely devoted to everything that will happen in Washington, D.C., as well as the premiere of the online registration site – a one-stop shop that will make sure you're well cared for in our nation's capitol. Looking for information about Celebration on the Hill 2006 before the new sites are launched? Don't forget to visit [www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org).

## **Calling All Entertainers**

We all know that Relay For Life is about saving lives, but when you're on the track, it's also about great entertainment. That's why the Celebration on the Hill 2006 Task Force is on the hunt for great entertainers that can help to wow the crowd in DC on September 20th. Here's your chance to be a talent scout... Do you know of a great performer that would be interested in taking the stage at Celebration on the Hill? The deadline for applications is April 28th, and there's still plenty of room to add great acts to the line-up. If you have questions about the process, please send an email to [coherentertainment@cancer.org](mailto:coherentertainment@cancer.org).