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Northwest Allen County Schools Community Relay For Life and Schools vs Cancer Raises Over \$71,000 for The American Cancer Society

NACS community came together to raise funds and awareness in the fight against cancer

Fort Wayne, Ind. (Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2021)—Today at 10:30 a.m. at Perry Hill Elementary Schools tennis court, NACS administrators, organizers and students received banners for its schools that participated in raising funds for the American Cancer Society. Through generous community support, Northwest Allen County Schools Community Relay For Life raised an amazing \$71,000 during the 2020-2021 school year.

The NACS Community Relay For Life event earned many accolades this past school year at the state and national levels. At the state level, their event finished in the top three for fundraising events in the state of Indiana.

“It’s an important way to give back to the community, and we are aware of how many lives are touched by cancer. The involvement of our community has been a big part of increasing awareness and support,” said Dr. Chris Himsel, superintendent, Northwest Allen County Schools. “We’re grateful to the American Cancer Society for providing instructional resources related to cancer prevention that support our teaching of Indiana academic standards. By making the academic standards come to life by connecting with our students through physical activity and encouraging healthy habits that actively prevent or reduce their chances of getting cancer in the future makes this effort more meaningful for everyone involved.”

This year’s event was sponsored locally by FCI Construction, Lawrence Building Group, Meijer, Lengacher Bros Construction, Peppi’s Bar & Grill, New Old Again, Golf BOGO, Brevin’s Restaurant, Premier Communications, Pizza Hut, and Berne Workwear. Hallmark Home Mortgage also participated in the event by raising over \$5,000 for the fight against cancer.

Nationally, the 10 schools in the NACS district combined to raise over \$55,000 which made them the #1 event in the nation for Schools vs Cancer fundraising. Two of the elementary schools finished in the top 10 teams in the nation. Perry Hill finished as the #2 team in the nation for

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fundraising with over \$15,000 raised and Cedar Canyon finished #7 with over \$8,700 raised. Oak View, Arcola, and Hometown were also in the top 10 during early spring and finished in the top 25 fundraising schools in the nation.

Eel River Elementary joined team #EmmyStrong this year as the Relay For Life's Gold Together team and also earned national accolades. Gold Together is the American Cancer Society's childhood cancer initiative which raises funds that directly support research, education, advocacy, and services, as well as promote cancer prevention efforts that could reduce children's risk for cancer later in life. Team #EmmyStrong and Eel River Elementary raised over \$7,000 during the school year and finished #7 in the nation for Gold Together team fundraising.

The NACS Community Relay For Life event was held on Saturday, June 12, and it was modified to a socially-distanced walk around the Maple Creek Middle School campus. More than 100 walkers came out to celebrate, honor and remember those that have been touched by cancer.

The 2021-2022 NACS Community Relay For Life event is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2022. The event is open to anyone in the Fort Wayne community. For more information, please visit relay.org/NACSchargersFightingCancerIN or reach out to ACS Senior Development Manager Ashley Wellman at Ashley.Wellman@cancer.org.

More information about NACS or its schools may be found at nacs.k12.in.us. NACS serves 7,857 students in 11 schools spanning three townships in northwestern Allen County.

The American Cancer Society is working every day to advance research, deliver lifesaving programs and services, and ensure continued public discussion about the important issues in cancer. ACS has contributed to great progress in the fight against cancer. The work of ACS has helped lead to a 31% decline in the US cancer death rate from 1991 to 2018, resulting in 3.2 million fewer deaths during that time. With your help, the American Cancer Society can continue its mission to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer. Call us anytime at 1-800-227-2345 or visit us online at www.cancer.org.

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