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Media Contact: Ashley Wellman

574-231-7053 | ashley.wellman@cancer.org

Northwest Allen County Schools and Community Relay For Life Raises Over \$149,000 for The American Cancer Society

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

Fort Wayne, IN – The Northwest Allen County Schools (NACS) and Community Relay For Life raised an amazing \$149,714 during the 2021-2022 school year. The 21-22 school year was the 6th year NACS has hosted a Relay For Life event and has been the most successful year to date.

The NACS and Community Relay For Life event earned many accolades this past school year at the state, regional and national levels. At the state level, their event finished #1 for fundraising events in Indiana and finished in the top 3 for the North Central region. Nationally, their RFL event will finish in the top 50 events in the nation overall.

NACS also competes in a national competition called Schools vs Cancer. Schools vs Cancer is a national leaderboard competition within Relay for schools to participate in are recognized for their fundraising efforts. The 11 schools in the NACS district combined to raise over \$100,000 which made them the #1 event in the nation for Schools vs Cancer fundraising for the second year in a row. Five of the elementary schools finished in the top 10 fundraising teams in the nation. Perry Hill finished as the #2 team in the nation for fundraising with over \$28,000 raised, Hickory Center finished #5 with over \$13,000 raised, Oak View finished #6 with over \$12,000 raised, Cedar Canyon finished #7 with over \$12,000 raised, and Arcola finished #9 with over \$9,000 raised. Aspen Meadow also finished #11 in the nation and Hometown finished in the top 25.

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 \$25,000 during the school year and finished #5 in the nation for Gold Together team fundraising. 100% of their fundraising dollars will be used for pediatric cancer initiatives.

This year's event was sponsored locally by Faith Preschool of the Church at Jacob's Well, Meijer, Faith & Flip Flops, FCI Construction, AID of Indiana, Lengacher Bros Construction, Lawrence Building Group, and EyeCare Express. For a full list of sponsors, please check out the NACS RFL page. The NACS and Community RFL and the American Cancer Society (ACS) want to thank all

the local teams and businesses who came together to support this event along with the volunteer leadership team led by Kathy Dougald and Tammy Royer. ACS would also like to acknowledge Dr. Chris Himsel who helped launch the NACS event in 2017 and is looking forward to working with Mr. Wayne Barker to continue fighting cancer in the community.

The NACS and Community Relay For Life event was held on Saturday, May 7 and was the first full Relay event since before COVID-19. People from around the community came out to celebrate, honor and remember those that have been touched by cancer. During the Survivor dinner, the Carroll Middle School show choir performed, and food was donated by Lucille's BBQ and Nothing Bundt Cakes.

The 2022-2023 NACS Community Relay For Life event will be held at Carroll Middle School on Saturday, May 6, 2023. The event is open to anyone who has been touched by cancer in the Fort Wayne community.

For more information, please visit relay.org/NACSCargersFightingCancerIN or reach out to ACS Senior Development Manager, Julie Goodwin at Julie.Goodwin@cancer.org.

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.

ACS is currently investing more than \$9 million in research in the state of Indiana and is partnered with 58 healthcare providers across the state to help secure rides to treatment and provide other support to people who need it. 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.