

2006 RELAY FOR LIFE OF Salinas

June 23 and 24

THEN...

Treatment was toxic mustard gas.

Targeted therapies attack only the cancerous cells.

...NOW!

Celebrating 60 Years of Progress in Cancer Research
The American Cancer Society 1946-2006

local relay facts

We are well on our way to breaking records for this year's Relay For Life of Salinas, but we need YOUR help to do it! Packed into these 19 hours will be many special events and new activities, all helping to raise funds to support the American Cancer Society in its battle to eliminate cancer -- a disease that has touched the lives of so many. From its modest beginnings, Relay For Life of Salinas events have grown to become one of the top fund-raising events of this type in the nation. Locally, our Relay continues to be #2 in California and #4 in the nation.

Our Local Track Record

- » 1998 - 32 Teams
450 Participants | 50 Survivors
\$116K Raised
- » 1999 - 51 Teams
800 Participants | 100 Survivors
\$351K Raised
- » 2000 - 86 Teams
1600 Participants | 150 Survivors
\$562K Raised
- » 2001 - 106 Teams
2300 Participants | 200 Survivors
\$806K Raised
- » 2002 - 152 Teams
3214 Participants | 350 Survivors
\$1.05 Million Raised
- » 2003 - 157 Teams
4200 Participants | 461 Survivors
\$1.09 Million Raised
- » 2004 - 167 Teams
5500 Participants | 550 Survivors
\$1.2 Million Raised
- » 2005 - 150 Teams
4,000 Participants | 695 Survivors
\$1.1 million raised

Each team member commits to raise \$100. This year, Relay For Life of Salinas is looking to break more records with more than 100 teams already registered and our goal for 2006 is to once again break the million dollar mark!

we can do it Together.

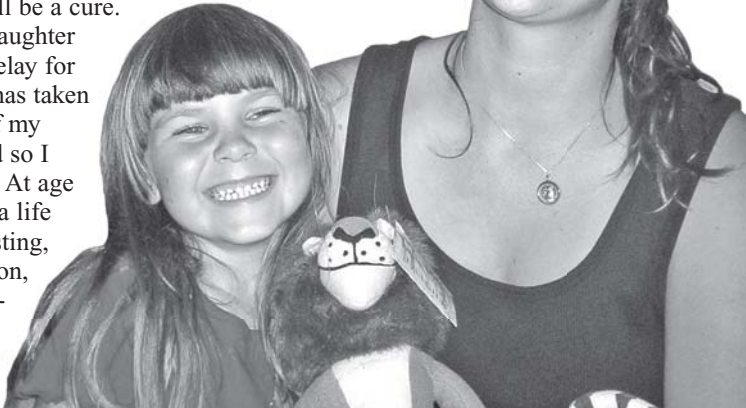
WHY I RELAY...

by Shandell Frank

His name was Joaquin; and Grandpa Jack to be precise. He passed away while holding my hand on February 6, 2006; three weeks after being diagnosed with terminal cancer of the liver and lungs. I was there, the day the diagnosis came over the telephone. Grandpa was hard of hearing, so I took the call from the Oncologist. "I'm very sorry," he said, "but there is nothing we can do now but keep him comfortable." Grandpa took turns both eagerly staring at me while I spoke to the Dr. and tugging nervously at the hospital blankets. I immediately became the adult. I was now charged with telling the most important person in my life, that his was coming to a close. A flood of emotions came over me; strength, fear, anxiety, anger, and deep sadness. I was not ready to let go. This man is the love of my life. The diagnosis set in slowly over the next few days as more family members arrived and we were visited and counseled by

Hospice. Writing this now I can say I still have not let go. Why didn't someone catch the cancer earlier? Why didn't he have testing done years ago? Why didn't the Dr. come to his room and speak to him face to face? I will never know all the answers. I think about him every day; his smile, his sense of humor, and his deep love for his great granddaughter, Cassidy. And so I Relay. In his memory, in his honor and with the sincere HOPE that one day there will be a cure. Looking at my daughter I realize that I Relay for her too. I Relay for the lives of all of my grandparents and so I must be vigilant. At age 32 I have begun a life time worth of testing, Relay participation, and Hospice support; for all cancer patients, for

myself, for my daughter, and in memory of the most wonderful man in the world, my grandfather, Jack Frank. With Love, Shandell Frank



2005 Team Awards

- Best Decorated Campsite**
- First Place | Bunco Babes
- Second Place | Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System
- Third Place | Los Palos Medical Associates
- Honorable Mention | Knights of Columbus, Haley's Angels

Eve Mills Award (Most Inspirational Volunteer)
Jackie Gash

Jerry Sanchez Ultimate Achiever Award
Pat Mitchell

Rising Star Award
Loretta Cornejo

Most Unusual Campsite
Salinas Combat Club

Team Spirit Award
Fresh Express

Luminaria Sales - Team Awards

- First Place | River Razz
- Second Place | Team D'Arrigo
- Third Place | Circle of Friends

Total Income Raised - Division Awards

- Division 1 - Fresh Express
- Division 2 - Team D'Arrigo
- Division 3 - Paraiso Vineyards
- Division 4 - Paraiso Vineyards
- Honorable Mention Haley's Angels
- Division 5 - Ruben David Salas Family
- Division 6 - Vegetable Growers Supply
- Division 7 - Premium Packing



Discovery Shops

For over 40 years the American Cancer Society has owned and operated a chain of specialty resale stores, created to help support the fight against cancer. The Discovery Shops accomplish this through the sale of high quality and gently used donated merchandise. These special items include clothing, jewelry, artwork, household items, books, furniture, antiques and collectibles.

Currently there are 41 Discovery Shops in California, staffed primarily by over two thousand dedicated volunteers. Many of these talented individuals have been personally touched by cancer, and they passionately contribute their time, energy and skills.

We invite you to keep hope alive and visit your American Cancer Society Discovery Shop as a customer, a volunteer or a donor. We are located right here in the Harden Ranch Plaza (between Walgreen's and Safeway).

Donations are gladly accepted Monday-Friday from 10am to 6pm, Saturday from 10am to 5pm and Sunday from 12pm to 5pm. Help us make Salinas discovery Shop #1 in California right along side your million-dollar Relay for Life.

Stop by the 'mini' shop at this year's Relay For Life, introduce yourself, meet some of the wonderful volunteers who make the discovery shop in Salinas a truly 'unique quality resale experience' and who knows, you just might discover a treasure to buy.

Wendy Greenan | Manager

WHY I RELAY...

by Susan Rowland

Strength, hope, love, and joy. These are some of the traits my mother passed along to me. My mother, Velma Puckett, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1977 at the young age of 40. She fought a long, hard, brave battle for seven years. She participated in many clinical trials, knowing that she wouldn't survive, but hoping that by participating that others would. She continued to make beautiful, the things around her, always giving to others before herself, she served as support and inspiration to others who

were fighting cancer. This selfless giving has and always will be my inspiration.

During the seven years that my mother was ill, a woman would visit our home, talk with my mother, with us kids (I was in high school at the time) and offered so much support to her, my father, and us. This woman was a volunteer from the American Cancer Society. This volunteer helped us all through the difficult journey we took. I was 25 when the cancer won. My mother would never see me walk down the aisle, or see the

granddaughter I would someday have. I participate in the Relay For Life as I don't want other sons and daughters, sisters, brothers, husbands and wives to experience that kind of loss.

Each step I take in the Relay For Life as a Bunco Babe is in honor of my mother, a step of strength for those who are fighting the battle, a step of hope for the future so that no one else will lose a loved one to cancer, a step of love, and support for anyone fighting this disease, and a step of joy, knowing that together we can find a cure.

WHY I RELAY...

by Veronica Salas

My life changed in September 1998 when my husband of 13 years, Ruben David Salas, who at the time was 36 years old, found out he had stage-four colon cancer. This was the day that would alter our lives forever. We were at a comfortable time in our lives, the time to enjoy each other and grow old together. We had a beautiful house, healthy twin boys who just started kindergarten, and my husband had a successful career. I thought life would be downhill from this time on; all we had to think about was watching our children grow up and live happily ever after.

Our sons started kindergarten one day and the next day my husband was scheduled for a colonoscopy. He had been having back pain and blood in his stool for a few months. I took the week off from work to send our children off to school and to accompany my husband to his scheduled appointment. After that, everything happened very fast. The doctor came into the room and told us that he had aggressive stage-four colon cancer and he scheduled him for emergency surgery that same day. I sent our children to stay with my sister so I could stay with my husband in the hospital for the next two weeks. We both felt very nervous and frightened; we had no idea what cancer really was. After surgery, the doctors informed us that

he also had seven lesions already growing in his liver. We had a choice, to take the normal chemotherapy and hope to live another year or to try an experimental treatment that may possibly cure him from cancer. Reaching for that hope for a cure, we chose the experimental treatment. The treatment was for a year and the lesions in his liver were shrinking until the last two months before the end of the experiment, when they started to grow back. It didn't work. But I didn't stop looking for a cure; I would search the internet until 4:00 a.m. looking for that glimmer of hope. The information on the internet was overwhelming. I felt like I was looking for a needle in a haystack. I was going to do everything in my power to help find a cure for this devastating disease.

My husband's company was very supportive; they had arranged to sponsor my husband in Salinas' second annual Relay For Life. We had no idea what the Relay was about, all we knew was that it was a fundraising event to fight cancer. It was amazing to see all the people in our community who in some way had been touched by cancer and to share the same common purpose--to find a cure.

My husband and I decided that the next year we were going to bring in a bigger team and get all our family and friends involved. Surprisingly, the next year we

were able to form a team of 60 members and thus came our team, "Ruben David Salas Family and Friends." Our team's effort was huge and we raised enough money to earn a top fundraising award and a team spirit award. Finally we felt like we were making a difference, so we created our team motto of "Our hands together can make a difference."

The next year my husband's battle with cancer was coming to an end, however he was determined to continue our fight by forming our team for a second time. Our success was again as phenomenal as the first year; we exceeded our goals and again won the same two awards. Unfortunately, my husband's fight with this horrible disease wasn't as great as our team's success; sadly, only two weeks after the Relay, he lost his battle with cancer.

My husband was a wonderful, strong-willed person and an inspiration to myself and many others. He had countless numbers of people supporting him through his two-year battle with cancer and I am grateful to all who have helped us. To this day, I continue the same quest he started--to support the American Cancer Society's mission of finding a cure. We actually know that with our hands together we can make a difference.