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Relay For Life Celebrates 22 Years of Changing Lives Forever

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Relay For Life is the signature fundraising event of the American Cancer Society, and is now held in many other countries. It is an overnight event designed to spread awareness of cancer prevention, treatments and cures; celebrate survivorship; and raise money for research to find more cures for cancer.

One person can make a difference. Nowhere is that more evident than with the story of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life, which began in Tacoma, Washington, as the City of Destiny Classic 24-Hour Run Against Cancer. The scale of Relay is now enormous.

In the mid-1980s, Dr. Gordy Klatt, a Tacoma colorectal surgeon, wanted to enhance the income of his local American Cancer Society office. He decided to personally raise money for the fight by doing something he enjoyed—running marathons. In May 1985, Dr. Klatt spent a grueling 24 hours circling the track at Baker Stadium at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma for more than 83 miles. Throughout the night, friends paid \$25 to run or walk 30 minutes with him. He raised \$27,000 to fight cancer. That first year, nearly 300 of Dr. Klatt's friends, family, and patients watched as he ran and walked the course.

In 2003, over three million people took part in Relays in the USA alone. Over half a million cancer survivors walked the opening lap, a traditional part of all Relays, and over \$250 million was raised, making it by far the biggest single fundraising activity in the world.

Cancer develops when cells in a part of the body begin to grow out of control. Although there are many kinds of cancer, they all start because of out-of-control growth of abnormal cells. Normal body cells grow, divide, and die in an orderly fashion. During the early years of a person's life, normal cells divide more rapidly until the person becomes an adult. After that, cells in most parts of the body divide only to replace worn-out or dying cells and to repair injuries. Because cancer cells continue to grow and divide, they are different from normal cells. Instead of dying, they outlive normal cells and continue to form new abnormal cells.

Over one million people get cancer each year. Approximately one out of every two American men and one out of every three American women will have some type of cancer at some point during their lifetime. Anyone can get cancer at any age; however, about 77% of all cancers are diagnosed in people age of 55 and older. Although cancer occurs in Americans of all racial and ethnic groups, the rate of cancer occurrence (called the incidence rate) varies by group.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States preceded by heart disease and followed by Cerebrovascular diseases, Chronic lower respiratory diseases, Unintentional injuries, Diabetes mellitus, Influenza and pneumonia, Alzheimer's disease, Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis, and finally Septicemia. Half of all men and one third of all women in the United States will develop cancer during their lifetimes. Today, millions of people are living with cancer or have had cancer. The risk of developing most types of cancer can be reduced by changes in a person's lifestyle, i.e., by quitting smoking and eating a better diet. The sooner a cancer is found and treatment begins, the better are the chances for survival.

1. In paragraph(s) form, thoroughly explain the historical background of Relay For Life. Additionally, address Dr. Klatt's role in the initial establishment of Relay For Life.
2. Using the formula $d = rt$, what was the approximate mean miles per hour of Dr. Klatt's inaugural run/walk?
3. Given the \$27,000 raised by 300 friends and family to participate, about how long did each member run/walk?
4. In March 2003, the U.S. population was about 272 million. What percentage of the nation did not participate?
5. In paragraph(s) form, explain what precisely what cancer is and the role it plays in the human body.
6. On Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 10:39 p.m., the United States population stands at 301,386,389 whereas the state of Georgia currently has about 9.5 million citizens. Assuming 53% were female and 47% male; how many of each gender can anticipate being diagnosed with cancer this year?
7. What are the top ten leading causes of death in the United States?
8. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the "Four-Step Reading" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
9. In complete sentences, using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *colorectal*, *cerebrovascular*, *influenza*, *Nephritis*, *Septicemia*. Additionally, use each in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **YOU MAY USE ALTERNATE SOURCES TO DEFINE WORDS THIS WEEK ONLY.**
10. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.