

2011 Relay For Life in Arlington, TX on 4/29 - 4/30, 2011

Hi!

"It is not in the past that the glories of the Relay For Life lie, but in the possibilities it has created for the future." -- Dr. Gordon Klatt, founder, Relay For Life

This letter is to invite you to engage this year's American Cancer Society's (ACS) Relay For Life with us and make a donation to the ACS in support of its cancer research, education, advocacy and patient service programs. I will be taking part in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life on April 29 – April 30, 2011 in Arlington, TX.

Paraphrasing from the Relay's brochure: "**Relay For Life** is a celebration -- a unique, challenging and fun way not only to raise money for the American Cancer Society (ACS), but also to raise awareness of cancer in the community. **Relay For Life** is the national signature event for the ACS. More than just a fund-raiser, the event brings together families and friends to celebrate those who have conquered cancer and to remember those who have not. . . This overnight event is also a great venue to highlight and celebrate the thousands of survivors . . . It's about a community that takes up the fight. . . **Relay For Life** represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that, one day, cancer will be eliminated." It brings more than 3.5 million people from across the country together each year *to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back* against a disease that takes too much.

This fun-filled, overnight event empowers everyone to help fight cancer by raising money and awareness to support the American Cancer Society's lifesaving mission. In 2004, for instance, Relay's 20th anniversary, about 4,000 communities across the nation held local versions of Relay For Life (with 2.5 million participants, including 500,000 cancer survivors) and the amount raised was approximately \$290 million.

The theme for Relay: **CELEBRATE. REMEMBER. FIGHT BACK.**

EVENT: Relay For Life to benefit the American Cancer Society

DATE & TIME: 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM, April 29 - April 30, 2011 (Friday & Saturday)

LOCATION: **Coca Cola Pavilion, opp. 715 Stadium Drive** (*Stadium Drive and Ballpark Way are the same street; it's Ballpark Way north of Randol Mill, going past the east side of the Ballpark AND it's Stadium Drive south of Randol Mill going towards Division Street*), **just south of the Ballpark in Arlington (or Rangers Ballpark), Arlington, TX 76011**

The event is open to everyone, whether one participates as a runner/walker or just wants to be a spectator in the audience.

One important aspect of this event is that expenses account for only 10% of the revenue and are covered by support of underwriters anyway. All funds raised go directly to the ACS in support of its cancer research, education, advocacy and patient service programs.

Very few of us are untouched by the disease of cancer -- the pervasive scourge that reaches every nook of our planet -- either personally or through our relatives and friends. This will be my 13th consecutive Relay.

This year we have a team again composed of all and sundry, with the team name "1-2-3-☺(SMILE)".

(1 = diagnosis; 2 = start of treatment; 3 = completion of treatment; ☺ = thankful that life will go on).

One can donate in one or both of two ways:

* making a general donation as in traditional pledges

* sponsoring luminarias (@ \$10 or more per luminaria) for friends or family members who are surviving cancer patients (to be HONORED at the Relay) or deceased cancer victims (to be MEMORIALIZED at the Relay). While \$10 is the minimum for a luminaria, one can donate as much as one wishes. Each luminaria should contain only one name. This is really a neat and personalized approach. A luminaria bag with a glowing stick is prepared for each name submitted and the luminarias are displayed during the Luminaria Ceremony on the evening of the event (at about 9 PM).

I have appended a luminaria form at the end of this message. If donating and sponsoring luminarias, please send your filled-out form(s) to me along with your check. Please type/print only one name (and, of course, choose only one kind – Honor Or Memorialize) on each luminaria. If multiple names or kinds are desired, then one needs to sponsor separate luminarias on separate forms.

If you're able to donate, please reply as soon as possible, and make checks payable to **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**.

My mailing address:

Jeph Abara, P.O. Box 3635, Arlington, TX 76007

If you wish to donate online, you can do so via my Relay personal page at the link below:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY11PL/161542648?px=4709409&pg=personal&fr_id=32289

I always seem to be last-minute with this appeal. But I hope I'm not asking too much. There essentially are just TWO WEEKS for me to receive any donations. Should you decide to donate with luminarias, I will need to **receive** your luminaria donation no later than **April 25**. This is to expedite the preparation of the luminarias and ensure their completion before Relay night. **In any case, I must have all donations – luminaria donations & general donations – by April 26**. I'll appreciate receiving your donations as soon as possible. **Donations to the American Cancer Society are tax-deductible.**

The Relay night and morning usually are full of excitement and exhilaration, with running and walking on the trail, kids' games and other entertaining activity all around, plenty of food and refreshments, the at once camaraderie and ethos which always attend relays or people simply sharing some time together. Plus, the touching and inspirational moments, such as the Luminaria Ceremony after sundown when cancer survivors are honored and those who have succumbed to the disease are memorialized. During that ceremony, candles in the luminaria bags are lit or glowing sticks in the luminaria bags are displayed, lights are turned down, and the names of those being honored or memorialized may be called out or may be scrolled on a screen. It can be quite moving and truly breathtaking to see the thousands of candles or glowing sticks in the bags lining the surroundings and flickering or glowing in the dark!

Thank you in advance for your support. Together, we will celebrate, remember, and fight back. Thanks for caring and for sharing!

*For the **FUN** & for the **FUNDS** & for the **FAMILY** of humankind.*

Peace!

jeph (Phone: 817-265-4578)

P.S.

If you live in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, this letter also serves as an invitation to the Relay, whether one donates or not. One can be a spectator or run/walk around on the trail and join in the festivities during the evening (and the morning?). The course will be a 0.31 mile trail that surrounds the Coca Cola Pavilion.

The Arlington Relay For Life event will be held on April 29 – April 30, 2011 (Friday and Saturday) from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM at the Coca Cola Pavilion, 715 Stadium Drive (*Stadium Drive and Ballpark Way are the same street; it's Ballpark Way north of Randol Mill, going past the east side of the Ballpark AND it's Stadium Drive south of Randol Mill going towards Division Street*), **just south of the Ballpark in Arlington (or Rangers Ballpark), 76011.**

Below - the event schedule (highlights):

Friday

7:00 PM: Opening Ceremony

 Welcome

 Cancer Survivor Lap

9:00 PM: Luminaria Ceremony begins

Friday/Saturday

12:00 AM: Midnight Madness

7:00 AM: Closing Ceremony & End of Relay

Bring the kids! In past years, the kids' games have included a puppet show, water balloon toss, 3-legged race, Bubble gum blowing contest, clothespin game, Red Rover, Dodge ball, etc.

[DIRECTIONS to Coca Cola Pavilion, \(south of the Ballpark in Arlington or Rangers Ballpark\), opp. 715 Stadium Drive, Arlington, TX 76011:](#)

* From I-30, take the Hwy 360 exit. Head south and then take the Randol Mill exit. Turn right onto Randol Mill. Turn left onto Stadium Drive (near the southeast end of the Ballpark). Go about 0.3 mile to reach the Coca Cola Pavilion on the right. There will be parking space all around there.

* From I-20, take the Hwy 360 exit. Head north and then take the Randol Mill exit. Turn left and go under the bridge onto Randol Mill. Turn left onto Stadium Drive (near the southeast end of the Ballpark). Go about 0.3 mile to reach the Coca Cola Pavilion on the right. There will be parking space all around there.

You also can get some alternate directions from the 'Net, by, for example, going to www.yahoo.com, clicking on "Maps" and then on the "Get Directions" link. Also MapQuest.com The location address for the Ballpark / Coca Cola Pavilion would be 715 Stadium Drive (Arlington, TX 76011).

When you arrive there, look for the 1-2-3-☺(SMILE) sign. That will be our location. We probably won't have a tent (several other teams will, however) – we'll be busy running & walking. Stop by our location and say hello. And you could run/walk with us just for the fun of it!

jeph

Please make a copy of the form below for each luminaria you wish to sponsor. Thanks!

Light the way to a cure!
Relay For Life Luminaria Order Form

Give a gift to the American Cancer Society and keep the fire of hope burning with a luminaria in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, or in special recognition of someone who has beaten this disease. Complete and return the form & check to the address below:

Jeph Abara
P.O. Box 3635,
Arlington, TX 76007

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____
which will light a luminaria during the luminaria ceremony at the American Cancer Society Relay For Life,
Arlington, TX.

Date: April 29, 2011 **Time:** 9:00 p.m.
(Minimum of \$10 & only 1 name per luminaria, please)

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Your Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State & Zip _____
Phone Number _____

Please make checks payable to the **American Cancer Society**. *(Donations to the ACS are tax-deductible).*

Site to display your Luminaria:
_____ **ARLINGTON, TX** _____