

# Relay For Life Event Becomes More Meaningful as Local Woman has More Reasons to Relay

## *Cancer Survivor Learns what the American Cancer Society Truly Stands For*

When Veronica Morrow-Reel learned that Relay For Life was the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, she was shocked. She didn't know that Relay helped others; in fact, she thought it was a medical research group. Veronica wished that she knew about all of the services that the American Cancer Society provided when her grandmother was battling bone cancer 14 years earlier, so she signed up to walk in honor of her grandmother.

entirely new reason to Relay: she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

"On my 48th birthday, I came home from the hospital a cancer survivor.

for. More of my family members are taking preventative tests, quitting smoking and getting colonoscopies."

I'd be lying if I said that I don't get nervous each time I go for check-ups. I am truly grateful when the doctors say I'm fine."

"I Relay because I did not know that the American Cancer Society could have helped prolong my grandmother's life," Veronica explains. "Now that I know what they stand for, I want to make sure I do all that I can to spread the word about them, and I will be a part of Relay for all my life."

2010 marks Veronica's 11th year as a Relay For Life participant, and she is thankful for all the people she has met along the way. "Some I see year after year, some I think about as I add their name to my list of people I walk

The American Cancer Society saves lives by helping people stay well, helping people get well, finding cures and by fighting back.



Veronica's first Relay proved to be one of her most memorable ones, particularly as she experienced her first Luminaria Ceremony. "My heart dropped," she remembers. "Hundreds of bags representing a person no longer here was too much to take in. A hush fell over the entire crowd. The flickers of light from the bags looked like thousands of fireflies as people walked the track in silence. As I made my way to the track, a survivor came up to me and told me that she used to work with my grandmother, and we walked a lap together."

Since that night, Veronica has been a participant, team captain, Steering Committee member, Assistant Chair, and Chairperson of Relay For Life, an overnight walk that raises money to help people get well, stay well, find cures and fight back against cancer.

In May 2006, Veronica had an



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St. Charles County  
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**RelayForLife.org | 1.800.227.2345**