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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Cancer Society Relay for Life hosts run

Topeka citizen Janae Winnow has planned a run for the American Cancer Society in honor of her sister Joyce Ryan, who lost her battle to pancreatic cancer in March. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29 at Hayden High School.

Winnow said she wanted to do this event because she wanted to help people who are still fighting against this disease.

“My sister fought a hard battle and ultimately she lost, but we’re doing this for all those that still have a chance,” Winnow said.

The participants will begin at Hayden High School, run to the Capitol building and run back. The opening ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. with speakers, including Ryan’s daughter Mikaela, who will be sharing the story of her mother’s illness.

“She told me to keep up the fight, for others, so other young children won’t lose their parents too soon. If she had lived, she’d be out here running because she loved being outdoors and being active,” Ryan said.

Cancer survivor Jim Smith will help lead the race with other survivors by carrying a flag. Smith was diagnosed five years ago, but he caught it early and received treatment.

“I’m going to be running with the survivors. We’ll be holding hands as we start out because together we’re strong,” he said.

Once at the Capitol, a lighting ceremony will be conducted at 10:00 in honor and memory of those affected. The participants will then run back to Hayden, led by families of those who have lost a member to cancer, and the closing ceremony will be at 1:00 a.m.

With the help of supporters, events like these saves lives, encouraging people to lead healthy lives by being active.

“We are honored to support those affected by cancer through this Relay for Life event,” Carney Ziegler, American Cancer Society Public Relations Specialist said.

The American Cancer Society is a nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. The Relay for Life movement symbolizes hope and our shared goal to end a disease that threatens the lives of so many people we love.

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