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Cities Join Forces for Cancer Awareness/Fundraising Event

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Margate/Coconut Creek, FL March 23, 2006 – The American Cancer Society is holding their largest national fundraiser, the *Relay For Life*, in 17 communities in Broward County this year. One of these *Relay* events is held as a joint event between neighboring cities, Margate and Coconut Creek. This *Relay* will be held April 28-29 at Monarch High School located at 5050 Wiles Road in Coconut Creek and is a testament to two communities working together for a good cause.

“The *Relay For Life* is about a community that takes up the fight against cancer” explained Melissa Lefevere, Volunteer Event Chairperson for the Coconut Creek/Margate *Relay For Life*. During the event itself, teams of people work to raise funds, and commit to having one member of the team on the track for the duration of the event. “I have been *Relaying* for 9 years now; my motivation is my 14 year-old daughter who is a cancer survivor. I personally feel that what I do helps make a difference! The event is a time when the communities come together to celebrate life and survivorship and remember those who have lost their battle with cancer” said Lefevere.

Because of the need for community involvement and city support, two of the first calls Lefevere made were to the Public Information Officers for both cities. Kery Venezia of Margate and Yvonne Lopez-Kimbrew of Creek agreed to get city staff and elected officials involved in supporting the cancer awareness and fundraising event. “This year will be the first time that the *Relay For Life* will include both cities. And, it’s the first time Margate is part of the billing,” said Venezia. Both Information Officers formed teams made up of city staff who have agreed to come together to raise awareness about cancer and raise funds for cancer research. The Margate Fire Explorers and the Coconut Creek Police Explorers will also participate in the event.

Both cities have instituted a “dress down day” for employees and are working on including other fund raising activities at upcoming city events. At the event, many of the 18 teams participating will have food booths in which all the proceeds will go toward team fundraising goals, and ultimately to the American Cancer Society.

This event promises to be jam-packed with entertainment to provide lots of fun for the entire family. From massage, movies, comedians, karaoke and a children’s activity area, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Teams will be accepted up until two weeks before the event. Regardless of whether you plan on putting a team together, the event is open to the public so plan on attending to enjoy the fun. Friday April 28 entertainment will begin at 5 PM, the opening ceremony at 6:30 PM, and the event will last through 12 noon April 29, 2006.

Something new to *Relay* this year is the event website. This site allows teams to create their own websites where people can donate to the cause via the secure site. Visit <http://www.acsevents.org/relay/fl/coconutcreekmargate> to view your community’s involvement and the progress of their fundraising efforts.

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