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Office of University
Communications

October 2, 2014

Cancer-Fighting Fundraiser Set for Saturday, Oct. 11 in Spangler Stadium

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — Cancer is responsible for one in every four American deaths.

The disease's impact on people in the Gardner-Webb University community led students to organize and host an inaugural Relay for Life fundraiser on campus in 2013. Nearly \$24,000 was raised for American Cancer Society research, education and survivor support, and GWU students hope to build on that success with the second annual Relay event on Saturday, Oct. 11.

More than 30 teams and several hundred participants have already registered to participate in the Relay program, scheduled from 6 p.m. to midnight in GWU's Spangler Stadium. "Relay for Life is a truly unique event that binds this campus and this community together to support cancer survivors and fight against the disease," said Emily DeVries, a GWU junior and co-chair of the organizing committee. "I cannot wait to honor and remember those who have faced or continue to face the battle against cancer."

Activities during the Relay for Life will include a survivor celebration, dance group performances, and concessions. Everyone participating will have a chance to honor friends and family members who have battled cancer. "I am relaying for my grandmother with ovarian cancer," offered Anna Peachy, a GWU senior and co-chair of the organizing committee. "I am passionate and excited about the event because Relay raises money and brings the community together."

GWU students should be commended for leading the charge to support community members and their families during their cancer battles, said Julie Pearson, a Relay for Life specialist who's worked with Cleveland County, N.C., cancer fundraisers for nearly 20 years. "I am so very proud of the Relay leadership team at Gardner-Webb," Pearson shared. "With the direction of Relay volunteer Bryte Warrick, a GWU alumna and cancer survivor, they have done an amazing job."

Relay for Life organizers will sell luminaries on campus during athletic and other events in the days prior to the event. For more information on how you can participate in the Relay for Life or donate to the American Cancer Society, visit www.relayforlife.org/gwunc. For

additional details, call GWU students Mary Toohey at 336-416-4566 or Ruth Anna Housand at 336-689-6237.

For more than 100 years, the American Cancer Society has worked to save lives and create a world with less cancer and more birthdays. With millions of supporters worldwide, the society helps people stay well, get well, find cures, and fight back against cancer. Since 1985, Relay for Life has raised nearly \$5 billion to fight cancer.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University offers a comprehensive academic experience that introduces students to the diverse world of ideas and to the people who think them, preparing them for professional success and for productive citizenship.

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