

ESSO RAISES \$11,000 FOR THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

In May, the Exeter Social Service Organization (ESSO) hosted a mini “Relay for Life” in Love Gym, raising \$11,000 for the American Cancer Society.

This combo event—relay, carnival and luminaria ceremony—attracted 400-plus students, faculty, staff and alumni/ae. During the evening, 24 student teams, each with eight to 15 members, took part in a five-hour walking relay. Team members wore matching, themed costumes, including top hats, tie-dyed T-shirts, ’80s attire, evening dresses, as well as shorts, sweats and sneakers. The carnival featured card games, break-dancers, a yard sale, massages, palm readings, bake sales, face painting and performances by local singers and bands.

PEA Community Service Coordinator Laurie Loosigian credits the relay’s success to a 10-member student committee “established solely for the purpose of planning, promoting and hosting this first-time event.” The committee was looking for an activity that all students—even athletes, who do not normally participate in ESSO because of scheduling conflicts—could participate in, a service opportunity that was both “value-laden and fun.”

The mini relay culminated in a luminaria ceremony, with lighted white paper bags each inscribed with the name of a person who died of or was living with cancer. Each bag—sponsored by a donation of \$5 or more—was linked with tiny, clear Christmas lights, creating a large oval around the gym’s indoor track. The ceremony included testimonies from Academy faculty and staff; the “lighting” of the bags; singing of “Amazing Grace”; and a reading of the names of local residents and relatives of Exonians who had succumbed to or survived the disease. There also was a silent walk around the indoor track by all relay participants.

“This year’s event emphasized team fundraising,” says Loosigian, with \$4,000 raised before the event and \$7,000 raised during the relay. Proceeds will go to the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, and will be used to support a variety of programs, including a cancer hotline and website; a mentor-matching program; and various research, education and advocacy efforts.

“We’re pleased with these results, and we will be making plans to host an event like this one again next year,” says Loosigian.

—Famebridge Witherspoon

JAEMIN LEE '09



On May 19, more than 400 students, teachers and staff turned out for a mini “Relay for Life,” organized by the Exeter Social Service Organization (ESSO).

‘Razzle Dazzle’ Dancing

Curtis Thomas '09 (left) and Jenna Dodds '07 (right) dazzle the crowd in an excerpt from the musical *Chicago*. Directed by Linda Luca, director of PEA’s dance program, the *Chicago* medley was the knockout centerpiece of the spring Dance Concert, which also showcased classical and modern dance works, including several pieces by student choreographers.



WESLEY CHEN '07