

Relay for Life raises \$1 million

By [Holly Rouse Tia Garcia](#) | Published: 04/29/12 8:11pm | Updated: 04/29/12 9:29pm | [No comments](#)

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The University of Cincinnati community celebrated cancer survivors and honored loved ones who lost their lives to the disease throughout the 24-hour Relay for Life event.

UC has hosted Relay for Life annually for more than 10 years. This year, the Relay for Life teams hit a fundraising milestone.

“We have reached \$1 million over the past 10 years by raising over \$147,000 this year,” said first-year business student Christina Beer, who helped organize the event.

Anh Tran, a first-year architecture student, volunteered at the event and drew caricatures for students throughout the night.

“I really loved how students could be so supportive of the event,” said Anh Tran, a first-year architecture student.

“I sold my drawings for \$1,” Tran said. “The goal was to draw one caricature per minute, which was fun. I actually stayed until the morning, despite having Student Orientation Leader training the next day.”

The overnight relay-style event began with a survivors’ lap, which invited survivors to circle the track together. The survivors’ lap is also a time to celebrate those who have cared for cancer patients.

Loved ones lost to cancer were also honored with luminaries. The candles lit up McMicken Commons throughout the night. Each luminary represented a person touched by cancer.

“I like the luminaries because it reminded me of my father, who had lymphoma,” said Nolan O’Brian, a second-year mechanical engineering student. “I called him right after the ceremony.”

Relay for Life created a family friendly environment for the entire UC community, said second-year journalism student Dana Hacker.

“My favorite part was seeing so many booths with so many different things set up,” Hacker said. “There was something for everyone — McMicken Commons was full of booths, and so many different people were there.”

The night concluded with a Fight Back Ceremony. During the final lap of the night, participants were invited to make a personal commitment to fighting cancer. Relay for Life organizers encouraged participants to make the commitment by getting a cancer screening test, quitting smoking or talking to elected officials about cancer.

Despite the terrible weather, every student was committed to honoring those affected by cancer, Tran said.

“Every single one of us put in a lot of effort,” she said. “Even though the weather was bad, it didn’t stop anyone from having fun.”