

PRESSRELEASE

Mayor's Office • 100 East Michigan Blvd. • Michigan City, IN 46360 • (219)873-1400 • Fax: (219)873-1515

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For Immediate Release

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Bagging a Cure For Cancer

Michigan City, IN (June 1, 2004) –Firefighters and police officers will be “bagging cancer” on Saturday, June 5, 2004 from 10am until Noon at Lighthouse Place Premium Outlet in Michigan City and Kroger and Wal-Mart shopping centers in LaPorte. This event will raise funds for the LaPorte County Relay For Life and the Mayor's Campaign Against Cancer.

Capt. Chuck Greis, public information officer for the Michigan City Fire Department, said, “Our guys will be accepting donations at three locations in the county this coming Saturday. All the money that is collected will be donated to the American Cancer Society.”

The Mayor's Campaign Against Cancer is dedicated to providing information to Michigan City citizens about detection and treatment of all forms of cancer, to donate funds to the American Cancer Society for use in providing support services to our community, and to work with health care providers to make low-cost or free screenings available to those in our area who cannot afford them on their own.

Mayor Chuck Oberlie has said, “There may be no family in our community which has not been touched in some way by cancer.”

The statistics are staggering: More than 32,000 Hoosiers will be diagnosed with cancer in 2004 according to the American Cancer Society. The probability of developing cancer as we grow older increases exponentially – regardless of where we live – and ours is an aging society with the Boomers coming of age. From birth to death, males have a 1 in 2 and females a 1 in 3 risk of developing cancer.

By providing information through a network of local professionals who are trusted and valued by community members, Mayor Oberlie believes we may be able to have a positive impact on some of those statistics. Events such as Relay For Life and the annual Plunge For A Cure as well as panel discussions on local access television stations help to raise awareness of cancer prevention, detection and treatment issues.

“Detection is the key to surviving cancer,” Mayor Oberlie said, “and if we can reach out to local citizens who are in high-risk categories, provide them with information about free or low-cost access to screening tests, we may be able to reduce the number of our citizens who perish from cancer because they were uninformed and untreated.”

Fundraising events such as Baggin’ Cancer and the recent Cruisin’ For A Cure help to fund the services provided to our community by the American Cancer Society.

“We hope that everyone who sees a uniformed firefighter or a police officer carrying a collection can in a shopping center will contribute to this most worthy cause,” said Capt. Greis.

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Contact: Janet Kostielney

Phone: 219/873-1400 X350

E-mail: jkostielney@emichigancity.com