



"Amy was just so strong and she deserved something in her name to be remembered for."

-Olivia Wolfe, freshman

Always Amy's Amigos

Freshmen continue to honor friend through Relay for Life

by Grace Erard
contributing writer

Amy's Amigos, a successful Relay for Life team, was created in 2008 by freshman Olivia Wolfe. The American Cancer Society Relay for Life is an annual event that raises money for cancer research through a 24 hour relay. Wolfe created the team in honor of her friend Amy Boyle, who lost her battle with brain cancer later that year.

Friends remember Amy as being an athletic and outgoing girl.

"She was really fun to be around," said Wolfe. "She loved to sing, especially one of her favorite songs 'I Can Only Imagine.'"

Freshman Kelsey Donnelly, Amy's best friend, recalls her sense of humor.

"Amy and I grew up together," said Donnelly. "She was always laughing. Even during chemotherapy treatments, she always had a smile on her face. She always asked me to bring her Burger King when I visited her. That was something we joked about a lot."

When Wolfe found out that Amy had cancer, she was shocked. Wolfe's mother had heard about Relay for Life, and suggested that she start a team. Wolfe liked the idea and decided to pursue it. She named the team Amy's Amigos after Amy.

"Our main goal was to show Amy that there were people who loved her, and who were there for her," said Wolfe. "We also wanted to raise



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE ERARD
Amy's Amigos team captain, freshman Olivia Wolfe poses with three-year team member, freshman Lauren Horlacher. Wolfe organized her Relay for Life team in honor of her friend Amy Boyle who passed away in 2008.

money for cancer awareness."

Soon news of the team spread, and many people started signing up.

"My friends were really supportive when they found out I was starting a team," said Wolfe. "I was only expecting about ten or fifteen people to sign up, so I was surprised when we ended up with over fifty members."

During that first year, Amy's Amigos raised \$8,000 and won Top Youth Fundraising Group Award. The team has been participating

in Relay for Life at South Lakes High School every year since then. Amy's Amigos members camp out on the football field along with the other teams and take turns walking around the track. According to Relay rules, there must be at least one team member on the track throughout the event.

One of the most moving parts of Relay is the Luminaria ceremony. Candles, which are lit inside bags filled with sand, line the track. Each bag bears the name of a person affected by cancer. Participants take a silent lap around the track and take time to honor those that have fought the disease.

Another Relay tradition is the Miss Relay Pageant. Male participants, dressed in female attire, parade around the track and collect donations. They then go to the stage and are judged based on the amount of applause they receive. Amy's Amigos members Josh Forrest and Scott Waters, also known as the Shimmy Sisters, are currently the undefeated champions.

"The Miss Relay Pageant is definitely my favorite event," said Amy's Amigos member, freshman Charlotte Smith. "I love dressing

Josh and Scott up, and one year I was a Shimmy Brother. It was really fun."

In addition to participating in the annual Relay for Life event, Amy's Amigos members have raised money for cancer research through a variety of fundraising activities. With the help of parent sponsors Mia Merin, Debi Scheler, and Jody Wolfe, the team formed an afterschool service club at Langston Hughes Middle School. The club organized garage and bake sales, sponsored kickball games, and sold candy.

Wolfe plans to organize a triathlon this year.

Many Amy's Amigos members plan to make participating in Relay for Life a lifelong activity of theirs.

"I've been a member of Amy's Amigos since it first started," said freshman Kacey Hirshfeld. "Participating in Amy's Amigos is really important to me. It's a great cause. It definitely makes me appreciate every moment because stuff like this is so unexpected and sad that you have to make the most of everything that you are given. I hope that through Amy's Amigos we can make a difference and we can help to save lives."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE ERARD
The 2010 Amy's Amigos Reston Relay for Life team.

Weird and Wacky Stories

Three stories are true, one of them is false. Can you guess which one it is?

Carey Mitchell -- 12
"I've gotten my head stuck in the fence at the zoo. It was the camel cage."

Kat Turk -- 11
"I flew a plane earlier this year."

Alex Rosenman -- 11
"During the summer I went to a party with ten thousand people."

Stephen Gurley -- 10
"I saw someone's foot get cut off."

The answer will be posted next issue.

Bolanos family and friends participate in Relay for Life to support other family members

by Sara Bolanos
contributing writer

Relay for Life is an event to support a cure for cancer that takes place at the end of May each year. Rain or shine people are out to support a cure for their loved ones that affected by cancer.

People have different reasons for coming out for the walk. For me it was that only a few months earlier I lost my grandmother to cancer and a few years before that I lost my grandma and cat to the disease.

Many of my friends have also experienced what it's like for a loved one to have cancer.

"My dad had thyroid cancer and my grandpa had colon cancer," said

freshman Sarah Davidson. "They're both okay now though."

"My nana has lymphoma which is a cancer involving cells of the immune system," said freshman Allyson Paiewowsky. "Recently a doctor discovered melanoma, a form of skin cancer. They were able to completely remove the cancer, but unfortunately her eye area had to be reconstructed. That's not what matters. What matters is that she's better."

Walking for Relay for Life means so much to people. To me, it means finding a cure for a disease that has victimized so many people.

I was walking for Grams and so were some of my friends.

"Walking for the relay meant a lot to me," said Paiewowsky. "That year at relay primarily meant one thing to

me, and that was supporting my best friend and her family whose family member recently lost their battle to cancer. It amazed me how many people were affected by cancer, and it made me want to do whatever I can to help the cause. Walking for 18 hours doesn't nearly compare to everyday struggles of people battling cancer."

Walking in the relay for me was touching. It was fun but sad at the same time, knowing why all these people were out there.

"It really moved me how many people were affected by cancer. It made me want to help more," said freshman Carlie Sigle. Sigle said her uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather, her old neighbor, her mother's friend, and dog all had cancer.

When a person participates in Relay for Life, they create memories they will never forget. During my grandmother's funeral two months before Relay for Life, "Amazing Grace" was played on the bag pipes. During the Luminaria, a candlelight vigil held during Relay for Life, musicians unexpectedly played "Amazing Grace", also on the bag pipes. As soon as I heard it, chills went down my spine. Luckily I had my friends there to comfort me.

Relay for Life is an amazing experience that everyone should participate in at least once. I am definitely doing the Relay again next year, and so are my friends.

"I will definitely participate in Relay for Life again," said Paiewowsky.

Welcome to
The Sentinel's
first Seahawk
Stories page!

This year, the staff of the Sentinel would like to invite students that have a story to tell to submit one to the staff.

These stories may focus on first-person experiences and involve you, the writer, as part of the story.

You may also send in an anecdote for the Weird and Wacky Stories, which will run each issue.

Stories should be typed and sent as an attachment to sisenti@yaho.com.

With stories, we also request 1-3 photos that relate to the story.

If you have any questions, see Seahawk Stories editor Rebecca Rosenman or any of our three managing editors, Bethany Lowe, Alyssa Siqueiros, or Will Sweet.