

The Pottstown Mercury (pottsmmerc.com), Serving Pottstown, PA

News

Tickets offer great chance for you and cancer patients

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

By Brandie Kessler, bkessler@pottsmmerc.com

POTTSTOWN — You're familiar with Willy Wonka's Golden Tickets, right? Now the Relay for Life of Pottstown wants you to get familiar with their purple tickets — 50,000 of them to be exact.

There's no chocolate involved in this contest, just a donation of a couple bucks to the American Cancer Society, and each ticket is the potential link between you and the \$50,000 prize.

Sue Dudek, the chairperson of the 2009 Bark for Life, explained that the Relay for Life of Pottstown is offering community 50/50 raffle tickets each available for a \$2 donation to the ACS. If each of the 50,000 tickets are grabbed up, it would result in a \$50,000 cash prize to the winning ticket-holder and a \$50,000 donation to the ACS.

"It's the whole win, win, win thing," Dudek said. "At the July 4 festivities in Memorial Park (where Relay for Life and Bark for Life volunteers had tickets available), people realized that getting a few tickets was an easy way to do something for yourself and somebody else."

Dudek said the goal of continuing to fundraise for the Relay for Life is close to her heart for several reasons.

As a teacher at St. Aloysius in Pottstown, she has seen that cancer does not discriminate. She has lost two students to the disease and doesn't want to see anyone else, young or old, go through the devastating loss.

She has also seen that fighting the disease is bringing people together. She got more involved in the Relay for Life when its canine counterpart, the Bark for Life, came about, and she was able to join in with her dog Charlie.

This year the dogs have raised more than \$88,000, inching toward their goal of \$100,000. Each ticket sale will be credited to the dogs' fundraising total and will help the dogs get closer to their goal, too.

ACS staff partner Maddi DeGennaro, explained that every dollar that is raised through the 50/50 community raffle not only increases the pot of money that one lucky person will win, but it also increases the money available to assist cancer patients.

"Every dollar we raise is saving lives," DeGennaro said. "One hundred and ninety-one people are diagnosed with cancer every day. The money raised (through 50/50 raffle tickets and other donations) is supporting survivorship, supporting patient services, supporting those who have been diagnosed with cancer and their families."

With a 56 percent increase in the demand for patient services, the need for donations to provide those patient services is higher than ever.

The beauty about making a \$2 donation for each 50/50 ticket is that half of that contribution goes toward the patient services

and the other half could win you \$50,000, Dudek said.

"Turn your \$2 into \$50,000," Dudek said.

Last year one lucky ticket-holder became \$24,000 richer after his mother gave him the gift of a 50/50 raffle ticket. The \$24,000 was a pleasant surprise for the winner, David Walton of Spring City.

However, Dudek and dozens of other Relay for Life volunteers throughout the area want to see this year's winner take home the full \$50,000 prize and are planning appearances at local events and places of business through the upcoming weeks where tickets will be available until every last one is gone.

Think of all you could do with that chunk of change.

You could pay off your mortgage; pay down student loans; buy a car; go on a much-needed vacation; or you could tuck it away for a rainy day, Dudek said. But none of those dreams for the \$50,000 will be possible unless you get some tickets before the big drawing, which is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Aug. 1, at Brookside Country Club. The drawing will be held at the pavilion and will be open to the public.

Tickets will be available at the following locations: Curves of Pottstown, Curves of Spring City, Diamond Credit Union, Franklin's Classic Steaks & Hoagies in Limerick, French Creek Veterinarian Hospital, Jerry's Chicken Barbecue, Pack N' Ship, Printing Images, National Penn Sunnybrook Branch, Weizenkorn's, YMCA, The Mercury, The Urban Hound in Trappe, Tri-County Chamber of Commerce, Coventry Ice Cream Parlor, Abundascents in Zern's Market, Wagsworth Manor, Women's Healthcare, Marchwood Animal Clinic, and New Hanover Chiropractic.

Tickets are also going to be available at the following community events: The Double Dip Dog Day at the Coventry Ice Cream Parlor on Sunday, July 19 from 1 to 4 p.m.; and at the Norristown Crush Grass Volleyball Tournament in Limerick Community Park from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 25 and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 26.

For more information on the Community 50/50 raffle visit www.PottstownRelayForLife.com

Additionally, the Relay for Life of Pottstown is in a neck and neck race with other events to become the top fundraising event in Pennsylvania.

Receiving the coveted title of number one in the state is within Pottstown's grasp and it's something that would be fitting for for the community, DeGennaro said.

"Pottstown's already number one in caring," DeGennaro said. "Why not add fundraising to that list?"

Donations for the Relay for Life of Pottstown may be made by sending a check payable to the American Cancer Society to: Diamond Credit Union, 1600 Medical Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, attention Relay for Life.

URL: <http://www.pottsmmerc.com/articles/2009/07/08/news/srv0000005786699.prt>

© 2009 pottsmmerc.com, a [Journal Register](#) Property