Attention Parents and Guardians,

Relay For Life, the American Cancer Society’s signature event, is an overnight celebration of hope, progress and answers. Relay For Life is a unique event that raises community awareness of prevention and detection of cancer and of services for those currently battling the disease, while raising much-needed funds in the fight for the cure. Relay For Life happens in over 5000 communities across the United States, including over 80 events in New Jersey.

The Relay For Life is an overnight, team event, whereby teams are formed in honor or in memory of someone who has battled cancer, and they raise funds in advance of the event. The average team raises $2,500 to support American Cancer Society Research, Education and Patient Services. The money we raise stays within our community to help those diagnosed with cancer and their families, as well as to fund life saving research going on at our area hospitals and universities. It’s called a Relay because team members take turns walking all night, the idea being that one person from every team is walking on the track for the entire duration of the event.

The Opening Ceremonies are dedicated to our honored guests: Cancer Survivors. They proudly walk the first lap, demonstrating for all that there is hope in the fight. As the sun goes down, Relay For Life becomes quite emotional as we honor survivors and remember loved ones with a beautiful Luminaria Candle Lighting Ceremony. The track becomes quiet as participants take time to mourn loved ones, and rejoice at those who survived. Teams participate in planned entertainment, enjoy live music and a DJ, and enjoy camaraderie with other teams.

Union County Vocational Technical School will host the 8th Annual Relay For Life on **March 28-29, 2014 (7pm - 7am)**. Last year 100 teams with over 1000 participants raised over $215,000 in the fight against cancer! This year, if we meet our goal we will have raised over $1, 000, 000 in the past 8 years in the fight against cancer. Over 60 cancer survivors were the “Stars” of the Relay. I am writing today hoping that you can join us in the fight against cancer.

In order to provide a safe and comforting environment for your sons and daughters participating in Relay for Life, we are reaching out to you for help the night of Relay. We are in need of parents to donate time whether it be an hour or the entire Relay to help monitor the event and keep an eye on the activities the night of Relay**. Please see attached document for description of assistance needed.**  It is a wonderful opportunity to experience and take in all of the hard work students have done to prepare for the night and honor those affected by cancer. The parent organization has done a tremendous service for Relay for Life since the inception of the event by volunteering and providing support on the night of Relay with donations of time, food, beverages, and other items. We would greatly appreciate the continuance of this strong tradition of volunteerism and keep the parent community involved in school events.

If you would like to find out more information about Relay for Life and things you can do the night of Relay please contact one of the Relay for Life Advisors listed below. (If you have already committed to chaperoning a team the night of Relay please keep in mind you will be with that team overnight for the duration of event. But you are still welcome to bring other donations to the event!)

**Advisors**

Michelle Perosi Adam Moskowitz Rob McCurley

Academy for Performing Arts Magnet High School Academy for Allied Health

**Please send an email with your name to** **relayforlife@ucvts.tec.nj.us** **with your name, phone, number, email, child’s attending school on campus, and times you are available to volunteer.**



**RELAY FOR LIFE 2014 ASSISTANCE NEEDED**

**VOLUNTEER STAFF: As a Volunteer Staff, you can select what times of the evening you can sign up to help out. You would be stationed in different chaperone stations along the track to assist in supervising exit doors. The hours available range from 7pm to 7am. You are not required to stay the entire evening, but may certainly do so. You are required to sign up for your time slots prior to the event.**

**TEAM CHAPERONE: As a Team Chaperone, you will be assigned a team to chaperone for the entire evening. This duty requires- check in times with team members, manning the campsite/classroom, and also supervising certain chaperone stations along the track through out the night. You are required to stay the entire evening.**

**BAG CHECKERS: As a Bag Checker, you would be required to attend the event from 6pm-8pm and assist with checking the bags of all relayers. We need Bag Checkers to handle the flow of students in each the load in/check in areas of Magnet and APA. There will be a room designated in each building for Bag Checks to happen as the students check in and then report to their campsites/classrooms.**

**PTSO/PTA/PTO MEMBERS-SNACK AND BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTION: Parent Organization Members to coordinate among the three schools- snacks and beverages. Duties include: setting up tables in front of Magnet MMC, organize and set up snacks and beverages, assist in distributing snacks and beverages, assist with clean up.**

**PARENT ORGANIZATION RELAY LIAISON: As the Parent Organization Relay Liaison, you will coordinate with two other Parent Organizations on campus on snacks and beverages for the evening. (There is a list of snacks , beverages, condiments, and supplies needed from prior years) You will be available to assist the advisors on the evening of Relay with checking in Chaperones, Volunteer Staff, Bag Checkers. You will also assist with making sure that Team Chaperones and Volunteer Staff are in their designated areas through out the night. You will assist with the communication between the Parent Organizations and the Relay Advisors in the weeks leading up to Relay to make sure that the snacks and beverages are in order.**