

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **A Wild Night for Cancer Research**

**Relay for Life, City of Naples Team to Host First Annual Fundraiser  
at Caribbean Gardens to Benefit Cancer Research**

**What:** Relay for Life, City of Naples Team is hosting a black tie ball to benefit cancer research. This first annual event entitled 'Evening Under the Stars' will be held at Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples. Tickets for the evening are \$175 and include a gourmet dinner, live entertainment, dancing, and a silent auction featuring items from a new Infiniti SUV to a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Harley Davidson plus golfing, hotel, dining, and boating certificates. Guests donating \$1,000 or more to the cause will be taken inside the zoo via limousine to a private reception on Flowering Tree Island. All proceeds go directly to cancer research. Over 200 guests are expected.

**When:** **Saturday, 2 November 2002**, 6:30 p.m. to midnight

**Where:** *Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples* at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Rd.

**Why:** Cancer strikes approximately three out of four families. About 6.2 million Floridians (about two in five) now living will eventually develop cancer. In the U.S., men have a 1 in 2 chance of developing cancer in their lifetimes, and women have a 1 in 3 lifetime chance. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the Nation and in Florida. While almost 80% of all cancers are diagnosed in individuals aged 55 and older, cancer kills more Florida children ages 1 through 14 than any other type of disease. Leukemias, lymphomas, and nervous system tumors (including brain tumors) are the most common childhood cancers. Last year, it was estimated that there would be 91,600 new cancer cases and 40,000 cancer deaths in Florida.

The American Cancer Society is the largest source of private, not-for-profit cancer research funds in the United States. Since the Research Program began in 1946, the Society has invested more than \$2.2 billion in research with a current annual expenditure of over \$100 million.

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# **A Wild Night for Cancer Research**

## **Relay for Life, City of Naples Team to Host First Annual Fundraiser at Caribbean Gardens to Benefit Cancer Research**

**Naples, FL** -- On Saturday, November 2, the Relay for Life, City of Naples Team is taking on the number two killer in our nation. The Team is hosting the first annual black tie fundraiser 'Evening Under the Stars' to benefit cancer research through the American Cancer Society. The black tie affair will take place inside the 52-acre Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples

Cancer strikes approximately three out of four families and about 6.2 million Floridians (about two in five) now living will eventually develop cancer. Last year, it was estimated that there would be 91,600 new cancer cases and 40,000 cancer deaths in Florida. All proceeds from 'Evening Under the Stars' will go directly to cancer research. The American Cancer Society is the largest source of private, not-for-profit cancer research funds in the United States. Since the Research Program began in 1946, the Society has invested more than \$2.2 billion in research with a current annual expenditure of over \$100 million.

Tickets for 'Evening Under the Stars' are \$175 per person. Guests arrive at the historic garden at 7 p.m. and enjoy valet parking. They then enter through a special entrance through the north side of the gardens under the canopy of the largest Burmese Rosewood tree in the state – an official Florida champion tree. Guests mingle under an Indian Laurel fig tree by the Australian kangaroos as they review and place bids on the wide assortment of silent auction items and sip drinks from the bar. Auction items include a classic car, a new Infiniti QX4 SUV, a 4-passenger SeaDoo Jet Ski, and a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Harley Davidson. A wide range of golfing, hotel stays, boating, and dining certificates will round out the bidding which will also include a live auction. Guests can also peer through one of three telescopes guided by an astronomer and be able to purchase the naming rights to a star in honor of someone with cancer.

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From Bamboo Corner, guests walk the illuminated paths past Indochinese tigers and African lions to RainForest Grove where they will enjoy butler passed hors d'oeuvres. RainForest Grove surrounds guests with giant ficus trees dating back to the garden's founding over eighty years ago. Jamie & Jacob Catering will present a black tie served plated dinner featuring Pacific Rim Surf and Turf. The gourmet dinner will be served beneath a tent inside the Grove. Entertainment by Dancesation, a professional dance troupe, will be followed by live music provided by "The Edge" for guests to dance to.

Guests who donate \$1,000 or more to the cause will be taken inside the zoo via limousine to a private reception on Flowering Tree Island from 6 to 7 p.m. Special surprise guests will serve champagne and hors d'oeuvres by Roy's of Bonita Springs. Guests will also meet one of the zoo's endangered lemurs. Lemurs come exclusively from the island of Madagascar. The major breakthrough drug in the treatment of childhood leukemia was discovered from a plant on this island. While almost 80% of all cancers are diagnosed in individuals aged 55 and older, cancer kills more Florida children ages 1 through 14 than any other type of disease. Leukemias, lymphomas, and nervous system tumors (including brain tumors) are the most common childhood cancers.

In the U.S., men have a 1 in 2 chance of developing cancer in their lifetimes, and women have a 1 in 3 lifetime chance. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the Nation and in Florida. In Florida, one of every four deaths is from cancer. If you know a child who has been cured of leukemia, a woman who has a regular mammogram, a man whose prostate cancer was diagnosed with the PSA test, or someone who has quit smoking, then you know someone who has benefited from research supported by the American Cancer Society.

Please join the Relay for Life, City of Naples Team in making this gala a great success in the fight against cancer. For more information regarding tickets or sponsorship, please contact Natalie Kraemer, Event Coordinator, at (239) 649-4009.

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