



## The Retreat at Seabbranch Remembers

by Lill Malinowski

**R**elay for Life is an American Cancer Society signature event. Our community, The Retreat at Seabbranch, in Hobe Sound, Florida, is a 555-home homeowners association. We have participated in the Relay for Life of South Martin for six years and have raised more than \$60,000 during these years. Our fundraisers are social gatherings as well since we try to make our donation gatherings FUNdraisers.

In December, we had our fifth Holiday Home Tour. We live in a community where the three different models look alike on the outside, but it



is a different world when you step inside these homes. Retreat residents open up their hearts as well as their homes. The granite countertops, custom faucets, crown moldings, tile, wood floors, rooms added on, custom decorating, lanai enhancements, art work, etc., along with holiday decorations make this an interesting gathering. After the tour, folks come to our clubhouse for refreshments. The "honey-do" lists become much longer after each tour.

One of our residents lost her twin brother to cancer last year. She and her sister started a fundraiser called "Running for Bob." This lady ran numerous races in memory of her brother, and she came in first place for her age group several times. Her sister receives donations in memory of her brother.

One of our team members opened up her home for a brunch for 60 folks. Team members and others prepared brunch dishes under the direction of our fundraiser brunch leader. It was a fun time for all.

Sixty-one Retreat residents and friends went on an Eastern Caribbean cruise for a week. There is nothing like going on a vacation, having a fun time, and raising money for our cause.

We had a Live and Chinese Auction at our Clubhouse. There was entertainment courtesy of two very talented residents. We have a professional auctioneer in our community who led the Live Auction. We served refreshments for those attending.

We sold Enjoyment Books prior to the holidays for gift giving, hostess gifts, and for the residents' own use. We sold Retreat logo items such as caps, visors, all purpose towel, shirts, t-shirts, and tote bags. We had two Duffy's Days at the South Stuart Duffy's.

Our Relay Team is called "The Retreat Remembers..." At the relay, we lit luminaries for Retreat residents who are survivors and for those who have lost their battle. We educated individuals on services that

**At the relay, we lit luminaries for Retreat residents who are survivors and for those who have lost their battle. We educated individuals on services that the American Cancer Society offers. This year, our team's cancer message was cancer prevention.**

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the American Cancer Society offers. This year, our team's cancer message was cancer prevention. We displayed healthy foods to eat; encouraged folks to exercise, and handed out printed material for them to take home. Relayers were also reminded to go for annual/periodic check-ups.

Our homeowners association's board of directors supports our team. They allow us to use our clubhouse for our fundraisers. Most of all, they provide moral support for our team.

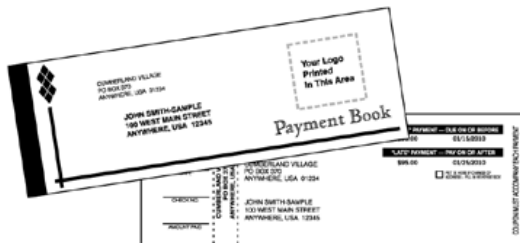
Our team is very ambitious. We have our fundraisers lined up for the upcoming relay next spring. Our team, with the support of our residents, has done a spectacular



job. We plan to continue in our efforts till there is a cure for this dreadful disease. The American Cancer Society's theme is: "Imagine a world with more birthdays. I'm making it happen." That is what Retreat residents are doing. Happy Birthday! ■

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