

# CTK students raise over \$85K for cancer with Relay for Life

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When Christ the King student Lauren Harrison and her classmates first began planning the school's Relay for Life event this spring, they had an ambitious goal in mind: to raise \$80,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

But when the Halton Catholic District School Board announced a charity ban that included Relay for Life, Harrison took the planning into her own hands and accepted the fact that without the help of her school's administration, they may not raise \$80,000 after all.

And she was right. They didn't raise \$80,000. Instead, with the help of her peers, the student-run event garnered a total of \$85,931.21, 627 participants and eight sponsors.

The relay, planned by 24 students in grades 11 and 12, may have been a challenge at first, but soon be-

came a lesson in how much these young adults could accomplish if they set their minds to it.

"At the beginning when we first started, I thought there was no way we could get 80 (thousand) on our own because it wasn't advertised in the school at all," CTK student Laura Jean Bonifacio said. "We couldn't do announcements and not everybody knew about it. But it shows that if you keep pushing and everybody works hard, we can do anything."

Student Victoria Scioli added that, having participated in the relay each year for her entire high school career, it would have felt wrong to end the year without it.

"It's such a good habit that our community was used to getting into and when we found out we couldn't have it, we couldn't just not do it. That was not an option," she said. "The Canadian Cancer Society has helped so



Veronica Appia/Metroland

(Left to right) Nick Krsikapa, Olivia Santaluce, Olivia Crowe, Laura Jean Bonifacio, Angela Wallace, Stephanie Cachia, Chloe Knauff, Victoria Scioli, Katelin Dewmyn, Brynn Brieda, Sophia Maiorano, Lauren Harrison, Callum Fraser, Alex DiVincenzo, Zach Baker. The cheque, written the day of the event, grew in size as the day went on, with over \$85K earned in total.

many people and there are so many people in our school community that have been affected by cancer."

Even though the school was no longer involved in

the planning of the event, the students were able to secure the field at CTK as the venue and everything began falling into place.

Student Nick Krsikapa said he was impressed by

the public's response to their event, which he says people found to be quite similar to the CTK Relays of prior years.

"I feel like we were able to keep a traditional CTK

Relay. I think that is a really big part for us," he added.

The relay took place on June 2 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. and included a host of engaging activities, some created by the students themselves, including a late-night game of human foosball.

"What I'm most proud of with this event is that it was a youth-run event for youth and it stayed that way from the beginning until the night of relay," Harrison said. "That really, really, really, makes me proud because it shows how much youth care about such an important cause."

For more information about Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life events, visit <http://www.cancer.ca>. Not pictured in photo: Alex Duke, Ben Sabourin, Caroline Holicka, Nichole Sanchez, Kristen Arnold, Natalia Stasiak, Rachel Carson, Julia Joseph, Julia Whittaker.

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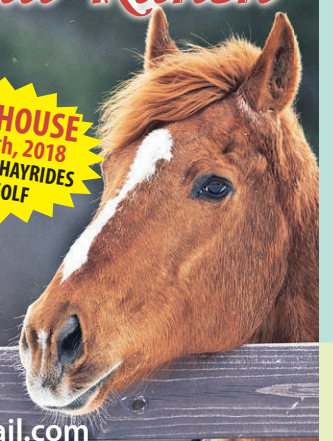
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