

For 2015 Old Saybrook High School Cancer Walk, Inspiration Was Personal

Every year the Old Saybrook High School (OSHS) hosts a cancer walk. The mission in hosting this year's **Walk to Fight Cancer** was to bring community members together to raise money in support of the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation (TBBCF) as well as local families who are directly affected by Cancer and struggling with financial hardships due to expensive treatments. This resulted in a \$5,000 donation to TBBCF!



The event has become a hallmark of the spring, run each year by high school seniors who devote several months to the effort as part of their senior project. This year's organizers were seniors **Lexi Bardos**, **Emilee Gowrie** and **Mackenzie Schneider**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the organizers.

The all-night walk, modeled after the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, has become a tradition in Old Saybrook, inspired 13 years ago by a high school senior whose mother was battling the disease. Over the years, teams of walkers and other donors have raised thousands of dollars for area residents battling cancer, and for research to fight the disease. The Foundation has been a recipient of walk proceeds since 2006.

The 14 hour Walk was held at the Old Saybrook Middle School on May 29-30 from 5:00 pm Friday until closing ceremonies at 7:00 am Saturday. High school students had the option to sleep over provided they were a member of a team. At its peak, 400 walkers were on the track. There were 13 teams registered. Eight teams spent the night. In total 87 students participated in the sleepover.



Schneider told us that this year's Walk wasn't designed in memory or in honor of any specific person. The three organizers left it to the walkers! The back of the Walk shirt design included a blank space under the phrase "I am walking for" where walkers could write the name of the individual(s) for whom they were walking.



The guest speaker was Luke Duffy, a soon to be freshman at OSHS. He had leukemia when he was younger. This young cancer survivor has two brothers, Trent and Clay who attend OSHS. Walk participants included Terri and Tim Brodeur's son, Sean and Sean's cousin, Hayley Brodeur (pictured above left). Both will graduate OSHS in 2016. Also on hand were Terri and Tim's daughters, Ashley and Melanie Brodeur who helped staff the registration booth. Photos are courtesy of Mackenzie Schneider and Melanie Brodeur.

