

**RELAY: a success**

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supporters rose to the occasion and raised more than \$4,000 for the cause.

The man behind Kings Mountain's Relay for Life is Frank Burns, the city's fire chief and a cancer survivor. Burns has lost a brother to bile duct cancer and has stood beside another brother and a sister as they battled and defeated cancer. He has spearheaded the organization of every Relay for Life and was himself diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2006.

Through almost a year of weekly radiation treatments and surgery, he and doctors defeated the cancer and he was declared disease-free in 2007.

"Fortunately, we caught it early," he said.

Burns is happy Friday night was such a success, and lauded Events Coordinator Tina Gettys for a job well done.

"It was a really great turnout despite the weather. The threat of rain probably kept a few teams away, but we did great and raised a lot of money. Tina did a great job."

Most who participate in Relay for Life can bear witness to the agony and frustration wrought by cancer, and they are resolute about marching on in their loved ones' memories.

"It was very hard, very painful for all of us," said Jerry Newman, 38, of Clover, S.C., who lost a young cousin to cancer almost a decade ago. He also walks in honor of "a very good friend" who is now battling cancer.

Four million people in more than 20 countries participate in the Relay for Life movement.

To learn more about cancer research and fundraising opportunities, visit [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org) or [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)



Photos by: Gary Stewart and David Blanton



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