

Relay for Life receives money from organization, community



Lindsey Leverett/Star photo

STUDENTS DRINK UP: Relay for Life is collecting aluminum cans to raise money for "Cans for the Cure" with Green Guy Recycling.

By Jordan Gass-Poore
News Reporter

Cans for a Cure is partnering with Green Guy Recycling to raise money for Relay for Life.

Cans for a Cure, a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to recycling aluminum cans and donating the profits to cancer research and treatment, said Sergio Palacios, the organization's founder.

"I came up with Cans for a Cure one night after cleaning up after a pool party at my apartment complex," Palacios, public relations senior, said in an e-mail.

Palacios said he became involved with Relay for Life as a 12-year-old. He said the organization deserved the donated proceeds.

"I thought to myself, 'what a waste it would be to just throw all those cans away.' So, I bagged them up," Palacios said. "And the next day I took them to Green Guy and

opened up an account for Cans for a Cure."

Green Guy Recycling will donate all of the money paid for the cans to the organization. Cans for the Cure will in turn donate all of the proceeds to the Texas State Relay for Life, sister to the American Cancer Society, in April, said co-chair Shannon McFadden, vice president of Colleges Against Cancer.

Green Guy recycling, located on Highway 80 behind Hobby Lobby and Tractor Supply. Cans for donations must be bagged and free from trash, other metals, and excessive moisture to be accepted for payment. Cans can be dropped off during regular working hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Green Guy will donate the profits to Cans for Cure upon request.

"The rate for cans varies," Palacios said. "Right now we make approximately 30 cents per pound or 35 cents per pound on loads of 100 pounds or more at a time."

McFadden, communication studies senior, said last year's Relay for Life event raised \$17,000, opposed to in 2007 when the event raised \$70,000.

"This year our goal is \$75,000," McFadden said.

McFadden said she became involved with Cans for a Cure through Palacios.

"We are always looking for people to volunteer by promoting and raising awareness," Palacios said.

Cans for a Cure is looking to become an official organization soon, and Palacios said, may decide to donate all the proceeds to another organization in the future — one that could need more support.

"We have a Facebook (Cans for a Cure) group page that helps members keep track of what's going on with basic info, updates and more," Palacios said.

The all night Relay for Life event will take place 7 p.m. April 17 at Bobcat Stadium.

Organization educates university about unintentional racism

By Teresa Wilburn
News Reporter

Some people believe the university may be divided despite the increasing number of minority enrollment throughout the years.

Members of a new organization on campus are hoping to change the way race is talked about.

"What is sometimes confusing for folks is to understand that racism is not always visible, active and intentional," said Anne Deepak, assistant professor in the School of Social Work. "It can be perpetuated by good people with good intentions in a passive and unintentional way."

Deepak is one of the women behind Interruptions, an anti-racism peer educator group, making its way into classrooms, residence halls, leadership conferences and public schools throughout the community this spring.

"In general, many of us are not comfortable talking about things like race, class, sexual orientation, religion and other social identities," said Sherri Benn, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and director of Multicultural Affairs.

Benn said the students will be responsible for making presentations, keeping abreast of current issues related to the topic, and training their peers.

Benn said the group — comprised of students from different majors, age groups and backgrounds — has more than 20 members and is still recruiting. Benn said they are looking for students to partner with who have an interest in the organization's goal.

Deepak said the group's goal is to institutionalize a multi-racial, student response to intentional and unintentional racism within the Texas State community.

Benn and Deepak, alongside Tori Amason, graduate research assistant in leadership, work to develop the group as a way to bring about diversity awareness. They began brainstorming after Amason came to Benn in the spring 2008 with an idea she had.

"I wanted to do a campus-wide, 'brown-eyed, blue-eyed' experi-

ment, modeled after Jane Elliott's 'A Class Divided,'" she said. "She took her elementary class and taught discrimination in the '60s by giving her brown-eyed students special privileges one day and vice versa the next. Dr. Benn asked me why I wanted to do this and that led her to introducing the idea of a group like this."

Amason said when an undergraduate at the university, she remembers seeing the issue of racism come up during a group project.

"As I sat and listened to all of the groups present their book and poster, I realized that each chose to highlight the 'white hero' of the story," she said.

Amason said she wants to help students be more equipped for a global society.

"Many multicultural student organizations do peer-education but are comprised solely of students of color," Deepak said. "We felt that interrupting racism should not be the sole responsibility of students of color but that it should be a shared responsibility with white students who have the same desire and commitment."

Deepak said students and faculty of color will feel more supported by the university and less expected to tackle racism on their own, thus creating a more inclusive Texas State environment. She said racism must be framed as an issue requiring a multi-racial response.

"The main thing is conversation," Amason said. "We want to create a space where people can come to the table and talk openly and honestly about their experiences. We want our peer educators to be trained to guide discussion with understanding of the subjects and ideas being discussed from an educational and historical standpoint."

Deepak said peer educators for Interruptions must attend a seven-session training institute in the LBJ Student Center.

"I believe education is fundamental to addressing complex realities," Benn said. "So, that is the focus of this group — educating ourselves and others through the conscience pursuit of new knowledge."

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COUNSELING CENTER

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SPRING 2009 GROUPS

Each semester the Counseling Center offers weekly groups that are free to currently enrolled Texas State University students.

Sexual Assault & Abuse Survivors

Mondays, 5:15-6:30 PM

Renee Perez, M.A.

Elaine Hess, B.A.

"Say What You Need To Say" (communication skills)

Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00 PM

Claire Blankemeier, M.S.

Claudia Flato, M.S.

LGBQ Pride

Wednesdays, 12:00-1:30 PM

Heather Aidala, Psy. D.

Hazel Lane, M.S.

Anger Management

Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30 PM

Joseph Bosarge, Ph. D.

Adult Children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families

Wednesdays, 5:15-6:45 PM

Molly Serafin, M. Ed.

Kimberly Trayhan, M. S.

Veterans Support

Thursdays, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Greg Snodgrass, Ph. D.

Joseph Bosarge, Ph. D.

Coping with Grief & Loss

Thursdays, 5:15-6:45 PM

Pam Moore, Ph. D.

Ryan Denney, M.A.

Register by February 13th; pre-screening is required by calling (512) 245-2208.

Confidentiality in individual and group therapy is strictly respected.

POSITIVE MENTAL REGARD WORKSHOPS

Mondays, 3:00-4:15 PM

Facilitator: Michael Beckham, M. S.

LBJSC 3-7.1

February 9

February 16

February 23

March 2

March 9

March 23

Who Am I?

Sunflower Seeds and Butterflies

Assumptions

It's All About Me

Transparency

You Can't Please Everyone

WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00 PM

Facilitators: Israel Najera, Ph. D.

Michael Beckham, M. S.

LBJSC 3-7.1

February 10

February 24

March 10

March 24

April 7

Egocentrism vs. Cooperation

Upside/Downside of Creativity

First Generation Students - Breaking the Cycle

Personal Growth through Motivation/Responsibility

Assumptions

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Transforming Stress: Using the Heart-Brain Connection to Reduce Stress

Tuesday, March 10

1:00-2:00 PM

LBJSC 3-7.1

Wednesday, April 8

2:00-3:00 PM

LBJSC 3-5.1

The above workshops are NOT counseling sessions. Students can attend all or any of the topics of interest.