



Relay for Life 2010 – WE WALKED

By Nancy Quinn Rummel, ACC

We walked, holding hands, not saying anything, just remembering, and feeling grateful – so grateful.

Three years ago this month my husband, Dave, had major colon surgery after hearing the dreaded words “you have cancer.” Found during a routine colonoscopy, the cancer had to be treated immediately, and aggressive surgery had the greatest chance of success. We packed our bags and headed to the Cleveland Clinic for 10 days.

Dave’s surgery was a total success, thanks to Dr. Victor Fazio, a world-renowned and gifted surgeon. If you Google his name, more than 37,000 hits register. The man is good!

So when Dave and I walked in a Relay for Life earlier this month, we felt very, very grateful for Dr. Fazio and for all the work of cancer specialists that can be a matter of life and death – literally. Relay for Life is an annual event sponsored by the American Cancer Society (ACS) to raise funds to fight cancer. It’s held at many sites throughout the country and our event was at Otterbein College.

ILS sponsored a team in this Relay because we want all people struggling with this disease and all those who will be diagnosed to feel supported in their fight. Most of us have been touched by it. Steve Anderson lost his mother to cancer. Char Anderson’s close friend lost her husband to brain cancer. Last year our client, Becky, journeyed through cancer. Walking to fight cancer is close to our hearts.

ILS was honored as the team at the Otterbein event that raised the most funds – more than \$5,300. That was rewarding to us, and even more rewarding was being able to take the time to honor everyone affected by cancer.

Dave and I walked in silence, remembering three years ago this month. Silences often make us squirm. But when Dave was sickest, most numbed by life-threatening illness, it was more than healing to bask in a friend’s compassionate silence, to receive and give a hug, to be sustained by a genuine hand squeeze.

Heartfelt, deepest thanks go to all ILS friends, family and clients for supporting our Relay efforts!