

They canvassed, they ran, they conquered

Citizenship and Immigration employees support cancer research in the 2008 “Relay for Life” marathon.

June 13, 2008, Ottawa, ON — At 7:00 p.m. sharp, the “Incorrigibles” were laced up and ready to hit the track at Millennium Park in the Ottawa suburb of Orleans. The sun was slowly setting as they eagerly awaited the next 14 hours. The strong enthusiasm of the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) team could not be tarnished, not even by the muddy track that surrounded them.

Cancer survivors took to the track first to kick-start the relay. At dusk, the perimeter of the track glowed with candles in remembrance of those who had lost their battle with cancer. The soft candlelight lit the way for participants, guiding their steps until the early morning. Fond memories were exchanged over chicken wings and Tim Horton’s, while an Elvis impersonator livened up the crowd in the wee hours of the morning. In between their relay rotations, participants shared stories of their loved ones from the comfort of their lawn chairs and sleeping bags.

Joan Atkinson, a former CIC employee and the driving force behind this group, rallied her friends, siblings, spouses and colleagues to partake in this worthy cause. She was thrilled by her team’s upbeat attitude and ongoing energy. “The team spirit was amazing. We had a great time in support of a great cause.”

The enthusiastic Incorrigibles raised a grand total of \$8,918 for cancer research. Ashley Taylor from the Ontario Cancer Society was delighted with this rookie relay team. She was very impressed with team member Ramona Dunahee, an employee in CIC’s Ottawa office, stating that her personal total of \$1,068 is a “significant amount of money to raise for your first crack at it!” Ms. Dunahee, who is also active on the GCWCC core team within her Department, is a shining example of Government of Canada employees making a difference in their communities.

This year, CIC National Headquarters is aiming to raise \$250,000. The core team is very eager and has put together an exciting schedule of unique events and activities. The National Capital Region exceeded its goal last year, and organizers hope to do the same in 2008. The GCWCC will run until November 25.

Celebrate, remember, fight back.

For more information, please contact: [Relay For Life Marathon](#)