

In the Spirit of Determination

T-shirt quilt ties together Relay for Life participants

By Lori K. Froehlich

A group of special women whose lives have all been touched by cancer have banded together to help raise money for the 2011 Relay for Life event in the Columbia River Gorge.

Jan London, Pat Prine and Claudia D'Angelo, longtime friends and bingo players, came up with the idea for a quilt made of Relay for Life participant T-shirts.

Jan placed an ad in the At Home section of Ruralite, requesting T-shirts. They were pleasantly surprised to receive an overwhelming response to the ad.

T-shirts arrived from destinations all across the Northwest, Hawaii, Alaska, Montana and California. In all, the trio of friends gathered about 125 shirts of all colors from as far back as 1995.

Purple shirts are worn by cancer survivors, red shirts for contributors who have raised \$1,000 for the cause. There are various colors per race for volunteers and caregivers.

Claudia, a lifelong Lyle resident and three-time cancer survivor, dedicated her time, love and spunky attitude into every square. The unusual project already has led to discussions about making another quilt for next year.

Claudia, Jan and Pat have all been involved with the Relay for Life for years and plan to continue as long as they are able.

The Relay for Life cause began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, the Relay for Life has grown



Above, Jan London, Claudia D'Angelo and Pat Prine design the quilt they made from Relay for Life T-shirts. The quilt will be raffled off at the Hood River event in July. Right, Lyle resident Claudia points to some of her favorite squares.

into the world's largest movement to end the disease.

The event gives everyone a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease. ■

Tickets for the quilt are \$1. All funds will be donated to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The drawing will be held at the Relay for Life event on July 16 at the Hood River County Fairgrounds, 3020 Wyeast Road.

To buy a ticket for the quilt drawing, or for more information, contact Jan London at janicerac2002@yahoo.com or P.O. Box 1505, White Salmon, WA 98672.

