

Relay ...from Page 1A

some breakthrough discoveries. DNA was uncovered because of

cancer research, for example. However, though the

money is important, it's cancer awareness that is the real goal.

McGraw and her allies want to make people aware of the dangers of cancer, the

necessity of research, the many different types of cancer and the needs of cancer victims.

When awareness goes up, she said, the money for cancer research, improved cancer treatment, improved patient care and all the rest will follow.

Cancer survivors were at the heart of the May 19 Relay For Life, including Ila Bragg, a fifth-grader from Union County Elementary School, and her principal Trish Cook. Both are recent cancer survivors, and both were the darlings of this year's Relay For Life event.

Lisa Lanham, clinic manager for Georgia Cancer

Center, said her team is the local oncology group that delivers chemotherapy to cancer patients in Blairsville.

Lanham said that her goal is to raise awareness in the community so that people know there is treatment here in Blairsville, and she said they will be bringing research to the clinic this year.

People think they have to go to the big city for cutting edge therapy, said Lanham, so she wants to let them know that they're right here in Blairsville.

Pat Cook, head of the Look Good, Feel Better classes, helped set up a free "glam"

booth at the Relay as a way to give back to the community that has given so much.

Cook said that there are many side effects to cancer treatments such as chemotherapy, and the support group she chairs helps cancer patients deal with those difficulties.

The Hospital Team had its 5K run that morning due to a weather postponement earlier in the year.

All in all, the event was a great success, and the American Cancer Society now has nearly \$80,000 more to fund the fight against cancer thanks to this local effort.



Photo by Mark Smith

The Mountain Liners entertaining folks at this year's Relay For Life.



Walkers with the 2018 Union County Relay For Life made a difference this year as part of a group that raised nearly \$80,000 for cancer research.