

Portland Relay For Life

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Bev Melilli
Phone: (615) 491-8155.
Website: portlandhatescancer.com
Email: read_4_less@yahoo.com

Date: 1/12/2012
Re: promotional release
Cancer Queens
1 of 2

THE CANCER QUEENS ENTERTAIN AND EDUCATE

PORTLAND, TENN. (January 11, 2012) — Cancer is no laughing matter, but a Nashville-based musical troupe will use humor and an outrageous stage performance in Portland to educate, entertain, and raise cancer-fighting research funds.

The Cancer Queens will bring their message of cancer prevention to the Portland Church of the Nazarene Feb. 4 to about 300 women in an evening that will also include a dinner, pampering and a mini-market of treasures that can be procured in The Queen's Bazaar. The \$20 entry fee will support the Portland Relay For Life campaign to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Tickets can be purchased at Portland City Hall, at the office of Dr. John Taylor, or by calling or texting Bev Melilli at 491-8155.

The Cancer Queens wear feather boas, don sequined hospital gowns and they sing familiar songs with altered lyrics that contain messages of health and cancer prevention. Brooks & Dunn's "Boot Scootin' Boogie," becomes a parody encouraging the audience to eat fruits and veggies and the old Little Eva song, "Locomotion" orders women to "go and get their Pap smears." The Portland event will be the group's first Sumner County performance.

"They are so funny and so motivated to teach women but they make it fun so you can remember it. It will be a day when women can stand up, wear boas, and dance. It's going to be fun," said Rita Taylor, chairwoman for the 2012 Relay for Life.

Sheila Bates, Cancer Queens' founder and community outreach manager for Vanderbilt- Ingram Cancer Center, said that personal experiences with cancer and less than enthusiastic responses to cancer presentations involving graphs and statistics inspired her to create the show. Since the show's debut in October 2008, the Cancer Queens have performed to over 5,000 people in 25 Tennessee counties.

Bates said the program and message have special meaning for her as she lost her father and husband to lung cancer. Candace Dean, a Cancer Queen and a program coordinator at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, said that she lost her best friend to leukemia.

"All of the Cancer Queens have a special relationship with cancer. They have lost friends or loved ones, and some have suffered cancer themselves," said Dean.

The Cancer Queens are part of the Office of Community Outreach of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, in Nashville, Tenn. and funding for the group to travel to rural communities across Middle Tennessee is provided by the Prevent Cancer Foundation.

The April 27, 2012 Relay For Life event will be held at First Baptist Church between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. More information can be seen at PortlandHatesCancer.com and [Facebook.com/PortlandHatesCancer](https://www.facebook.com/PortlandHatesCancer).

###