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People walk past luminarias made in memory of those who have died of cancer and in honor of cancer survivors before the opening ceremonies of the 2009 Olmsted County American Cancer Society Relay for Life event on July 10 at University Center Rochester.

Relay for Life raises \$170,000

By Jeff Hansel

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The American Cancer Society's Olmsted County Relay for Life fundraiser held overnight July 10 to 11 in Rochester raised \$170,000.

Donations are still coming in.

Relay for Life 2010 has been scheduled for June 16 and 17, the Web site says.

Also, the Cancer Prevention Study-3 registered 221 volunteer participants for a 20-year study of the environmental and genetic factors that predispose people

to cancer and offer protection against it.

Organizers had hoped to register 190 people and kept signing people up after they surpassed that number. They kept enrolling people until they ran out of registration materials, said Cancer Society spokesman Ross Messick.

"The ultimate goal is to enroll 500,000 adults from various racial/ethnic backgrounds from across the U.S. The purpose of CPS-3 is to better understand the lifestyle, behavioral, environmental and genetic factors that cause or prevent cancer and to ultimately eliminate cancer as a major health problem for this and

future generations," says the society's Web site.

Volunteers who have never had cancer filled out surveys at a Relay for Life tent. Longer "baseline" surveys that take about 45 minutes to fill out are being mailed to volunteers this week. Those forms ask volunteers to list medications they take, how much they exercise and how vigorously they exercise.

Reporter Jeff Hansel covers health for the Post-Bulletin. Read his blog, Pulse on Health, at Postbulletin.com.

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