



By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

The streets of Wauneta were a sea of bright tie-dyed t-shirts Saturday morning when the annual All Cancer Walk sponsored by Chase County Community Hospital got underway.

The 2013 event theme was childhood cancer, a timely theme as September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Before the walkers started out Saturday morning Pastor Kevin McGraw of the Hamlet Union Church gave a blessing.

Participants also heard a talk by Vanessa Terryberry before they headed out. Terryberry spoke about dealing with cancer from the perspective of a parent of an infant who developed cancer.

The event also featured a silent auction with over 70 items.

Walkers had the opportunity to have their faces painted and have photos taken at the "Fun Photo Booth" provided by Chelsea Zuege and the Wauneta-Palisade Bronco Cheerleaders.

When walkers returned to Wauneta's American Legion building after the walk they heard a presentation by Cassie Carman, who shared about her experiences as a child who had cancer and the challenges presented her and her family.

A total of 174 walkers participated in the event. The silent auction raised \$2,697 this year. An additional \$2,600 was donated ahead of the walk, said Randy Vlasin, executive director of the hospital foundation.



Organizers said the funds raised from the All Cancer Walk will benefit residents of Chase County and the surrounding area who are fighting cancer or taking preventative steps related to cancer.

Vlasin said an individual can apply for up to \$250 annually to pay for medical treatments, preventative or diagnostic tests such as mammograms, blood tests related to cancer detection, etc. The funds can also be used to pay for meals, lodging and travel associated with cancer treatments.

This event has provided financial assistance to over 70 individuals the last three years. The vast majority of those are residents of Chase County.

Vlasin explained that some non-county residents who receive medical services at Chase County Community Hospital have received help from the event, but typically those helped are from a bordering county.

Final net profits from Saturday's event are not yet known as bills are still being paid, Vlasin said.