



## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

*Wednesday June, 17, 2008*

### **Robust turnout for 'Relay For Life'**

In spite of intermittent showers throughout the day, the robust turnout at this year's Relay For Life event illustrated that there is a strong cancer support base within the community spanning the public and private sector as well as individuals from 'all walks of life'. Hundreds of cancer survivors, caregivers, family, friends, service clubs, schools and teams representing corporate Jamaica, walked, jogged and ran laps in support of the Jamaica Cancer Society's Relay For Life recently held at the Police Officers' Club in Kingston. This annual event was the sixth of its kind, representing the premier fundraising activity for the Society which fuels the drive for the fight against cancer.

The Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency, The Most Honourable Professor Sir Kenneth Hall, ON, GCMG, OJ officially declared the start of the 2008 Relay for Life. In his remarks, the Governor General expressed that he was pleased to be associated with the Jamaica Cancer Society and very delighted to declare the Relay For Life formally open. At dusk, the Governor General accompanied by Her Excellency, The Most Honourable Lady Rheima Hall participated in the first lap dedicated to cancer survivors, also known as the Survivors' Lap. This important aspect of the opening ceremony was regally led by the sounds emanating from energetic St. Patrick's Marching Band.

During the emotionally moving Luminaria Ceremony at 10:00 p.m., candles in small bags lining both sides of the track were lit by students from the Hillel Academy and volunteers in honour of cancer survivors and in memory of those who have lost the battle against cancer. The stirring display of glowing bags solidified the Relay For Life experience for many of the participants.

The night's activities featured lively entertainment ranging from Jamaica Cancer Society Chorale, Jamaica National Chorale, George Nooks; Ivorites, Voices of Harper; DiMario McDowell & Charmaine Lemonius; and Ibo Cooper's group from Edna Manley School of the Visual Arts all of which had the audience rocking. Not to be left out, were those persons who braved the karaoke stage and thrilled their attentive audience. The excitement continued into the early morning, with the socaerobics session conducted by the energetic Karelle Ashley of JamFit that roused many persons at dawn, in preparation for the closing ceremony and final lap at 6:00 a.m.

The unique twelve-hour outdoor team event brought communities together to raise both awareness and funds which will help to foster cancer research and strengthen the on-going fight against cancer. It also promoted camaraderie and fellowship that transcended sectors of the society to offer support to those individuals who are fighting cancer. The Relay For Life

Committee, volunteers and staff of the Jamaica Cancer Society worked closely together to ensure the event's successful production.

The Jamaica Cancer Society continues to engender support for all their programmes and fundraising initiatives throughout the year. "After the Relay we hope that we will continue to work together in fighting the battle against cancer", encouraged Earl Jarrett, Chairman of the Jamaica Cancer Society.

**- End -**