



The Stacey Leondis Spirit of Relay Award

2/11/1985–7/21/2008

In memory of Stacey Leondis (SY '08), Relay For Life co-chair, committee head, and tireless advocate for remembering the “why” behind the Relay.

The Relay For Life is perhaps best known as a fundraiser, an overnight party, and a team walk, yet it would be none of these without the underlying spirit and cause that drive our action.

To understand this spirit, one need ask only one question: Why do we Relay?

The reasons are many, but beneath them all, a common theme holds true — we Relay for the people who motivate our fight, the stories that make it personal, the hope that one day we won't need to. These are the forces that build a community out of friends and perfect strangers. This is the Spirit of Relay.

Stacey understood this spirit better than anyone. At meetings or fundraisers or in the midst of a busy and stressful day, she reminded us to step back, breathe, and remember why we Relay. A long-term survivor of osteosarcoma, Stacey was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia just before her senior year. In between rounds of chemotherapy and recovering from a bone marrow transplant, her commitment to Relay and her passion for this cause never wavered.

With this award, we hope to honor the effort and dedication of those who, like Stacey, truly embody the Spirit of Relay. Giving from the heart, they donate their time and energy, and expect nothing in return. Through their words and actions, they inspire others to do the same.

Do you know someone like this? Over the next two months, look out for teammates and volunteers who express this passion and spirit. Nominations will be collected at the Relay For Life and the award recipient will be recognized at the Closing Ceremony.