

The annual event began in South Pasadena several years ago. Former Mayors and Councilmembers Amedee "Dick" Richards and Dr. Jim Hodge, who is a local dentist, decided to host a Relay in South Pasadena in 2003, and community members have joined the effort each year since.

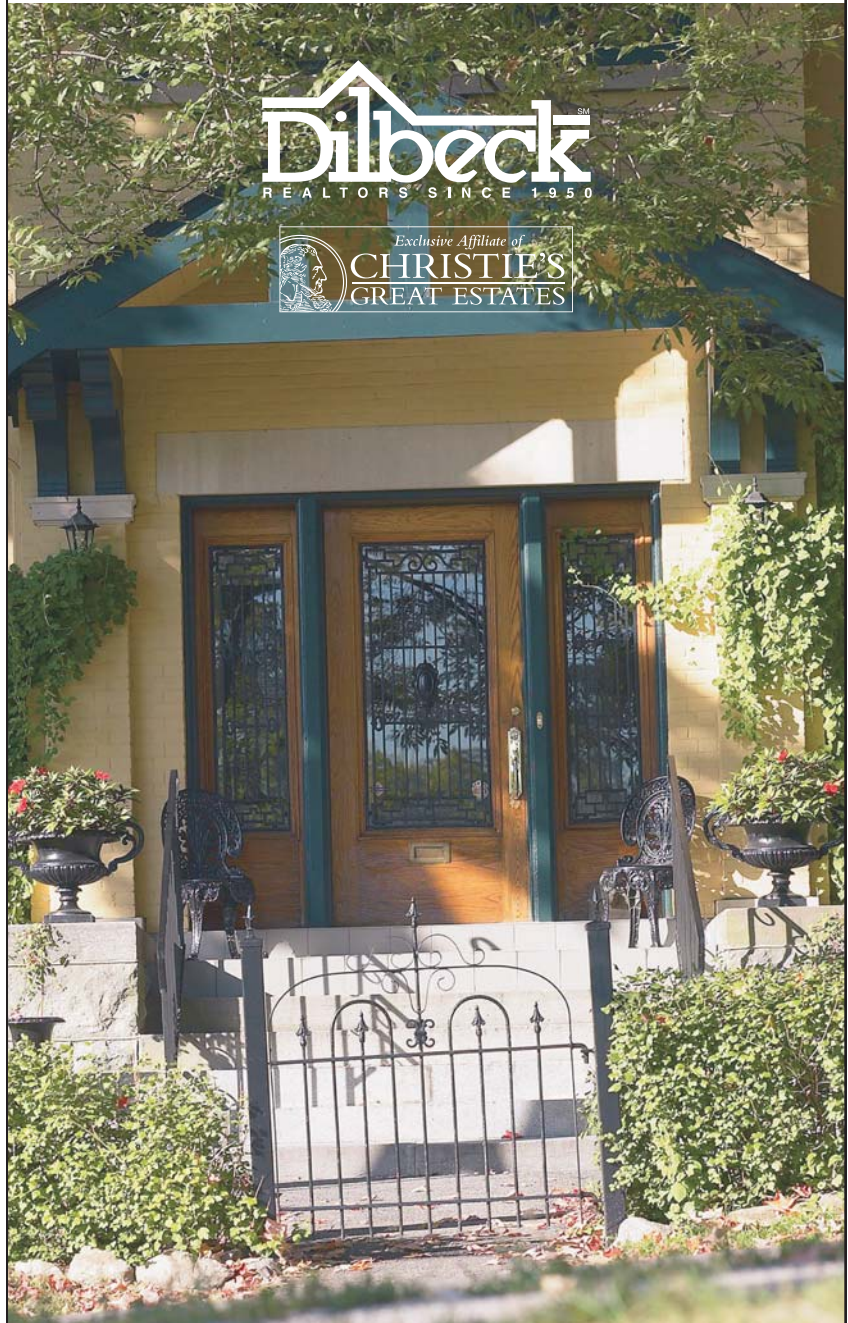
This nationwide event began in 1985 in Tacoma, Washington, when a local physician walked around a track for 24 hours and raised \$27,000 for the American Cancer Society. This year, more than \$351 million will be raised nationwide through Relay events. Nearby cities hosting Relays include Pasadena, Arcadia, Alhambra, and Sierra Madre.

The South Pasadena Relay is cosponsored by the City of South Pasadena and the South Pasadena Unified School District. Teams are forming from the city and the school board, as well as groups in memory of or in support of people who are suffering from cancer. Religious organizations, scout troops, service clubs, and other groups will schedule walkers on the track throughout the 24-hour period. The first lap will be led by cancer survivors.

Throughout the day, volunteer entertainers will appear on stage, including The Grateful Dads, Dave Kinnoin, the South Pasadena Strings, and the Hank Drank Trio. Walkers can enjoy donations of food at the high school snack stand throughout the 24-hour period. Children can take part in the "Kid's Kamp," organized by the South Pasadena Youth Commission, and featuring games from the 70s.

Cancer prevention, detection, and treatment messages are delivered in creative, colorful ways. A moving "Luminaria" ceremony at 9 p.m. will be held to remember those who have succumbed to cancer and to recognize those who have survived. Tents will be set up on the field and many participants will spend the night camping out. To form or join a team, or to become a corporate sponsor, contact Committee Chair Karen Durfee at (626) 441-3366, or Rosie Rivas at the American Cancer Society at (626) 795-7774 option 3, ext 227. †

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