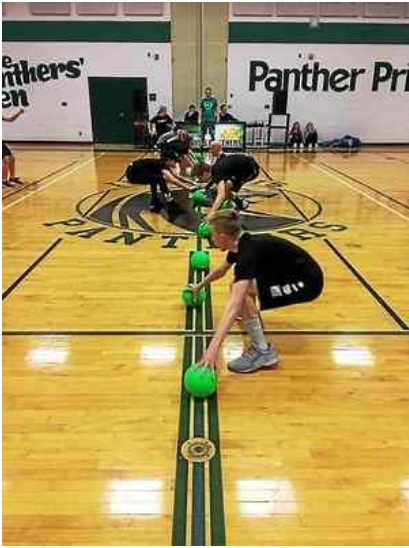


# Macomb Township's Iroquois in Chippewa Valley to host Circle of Hope fundraiser

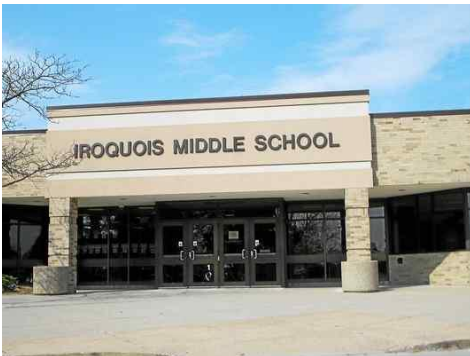


Iroquois Middle School will host a Circle of Hope team fundraising event for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society on April 21. A dodgeball tournament at Iroquois raised money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in 2017.

Photo courtesy of SHANNON LAFRATE

By Nicole Tuttle, For The Macomb Daily

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Iroquois Middle School will host a Circle of Hope team fundraising event for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at the school track on April 21. The event is 12 hours long.

Nicole Tuttle — For The Macomb Daily

This Saturday, those taking laps around Iroquois Middle School's track won't necessarily be participating in gym class or even a school-sponsored track team. Instead they will be part of a community-wide event, the first Circle of Hope fundraiser at Iroquois for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"This has never been held in the (Chippewa Valley) district before. We are trying to include as many different parts of the community as we can. We have contacted our feeder schools to Iroquois, Fox and Mohawk, and their teams are collecting registrations and members for their teams," Iroquois teacher and student council advisor Shannon Lafrate said.

Lafrate said that the event is part of a student council initiative to raise money for the society.

"The goal is \$40,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and this is one of the events we are putting on to do that," Lafrate said.

Circle of Hope is a team fundraising event for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. At Iroquois, team members will take turns walking around the school track for the 12-hour event Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Teams are asked to keep a member on the track at all times to symbolize that cancer never sleeps.

Teams can set up themed campsites in the football field and continue fundraising that day. Raffles, games, food, shopping, music, activities and more, which are going to be set up around the track, are all planned.

“We have several of the National Junior Honor Society students participating and the student council students. We have some working also as volunteers. Being that this is the first year, we are trying to build teams and get them up. We are looking to increase registration,” Lafrate said.

As this is the first year for the event, the primary fundraising efforts are focused on registration fees, according to Lafrate.

“Anyone who wants to register can. It is open to everyone,” Lafrate said.

The goals are to have 200 people at the event and raise about \$20,000 through it, according to Lafrate.

The team that raises the most money through team registrations and outside donations is awarded the Circle of Hope Award.

Lafrate said sponsorships are being sought for the event from local businesses, with details available by contacting [imscircleofhope@gmail.com](mailto:imscircleofhope@gmail.com)

Iroquois has partnered with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for over 10 years. Lafrate said the Macomb Township school has been the top school in the state to raise funds for the society for the last several years, collecting over 10 years \$100,000. In addition to the Circle of Hope event, the Chippewa Valley school has hosted a dodgeball tournament, three on three basketball game, spirit week and other activities to raise funds this year for the society, according to Lafrate. The plan to host the Circle of Hope event came about in January, according to Lafrate.

“We were trying to look for a bigger event or come up with the idea of a bigger event, where we could include the community. This is kind of modeled after Relay For Life a little bit...” Lafrate said.

Registration for the Circle of Hope event at Iroquois is \$15 per person or \$10 for children age 10 and under and is available online at [events.lls.org/pages/mi/iroquoiscircleofhope](https://events.lls.org/pages/mi/iroquoiscircleofhope), where people can register by joining or creating a team, according to Lafrate.