

Team Angus 'Lights the Night'

by Mathew Elliott

PHOTOS BY SHAUNA ROSE HERMEL



According to the Light the Night web site, “Leukemia claims more lives than any other cancer in children under 20, but you can make a difference.”

That’s just what employees of the American Angus Association and Angus Productions Inc. (API) recently did by raising approximately \$15,574.36 (money was still coming in at press time) for the Light the Night Walk.

This event is The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s nationwide evening walk. Participants carry illuminated balloons to celebrate and commemorate lives touched by cancer. Funds raised support the society’s mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

Team Angus first became involved with the walk three years ago as a corporate sponsor for the Saint Joseph, Mo., walk, and it has continued to become more involved. This year Team Angus had a special reason to raise money and walk. Ryan Stallo, son of Information Systems Specialist Chris Stallo, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia one week before his second birthday.

Nearly a year later, after going through many painful blood draws, chemotherapy and the subsequent loss of hair, taking steroids that caused mood swings, and enduring bone marrow surgeries, Ryan is currently in remission. He and his family were chosen as the honorary family to lead this year’s walk in Saint Joseph.

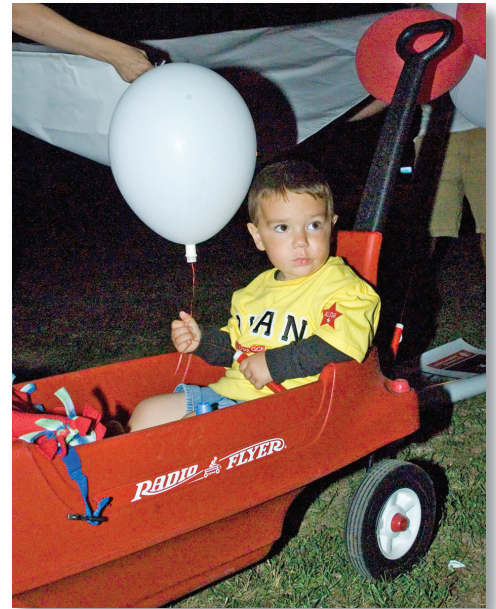
Sara Moyer, director of AngusSource®, organized a meeting for those who were interested in participating.

“I sent out an e-mail for a team meeting,” Moyer says. “From there we decided on which fundraisers we wanted to do, and everyone took a responsibility.”

Events ranged from a silent auction to



► Ryan, Suzanne and Chris Stallo were the honorary family for the Saint Joseph Light the Night Walk. Currently in remission, Ryan was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia one week before his second birthday.



bake sales, but all raised money for the cause. In a “boot block,” team members stood on street block corners and took donations in boots. There was also a garage sale, a poker night, a casual day where employees paid money to come to work in casual attire, and a quilt raffle for a homemade quilt made by “The Angus Quilters.”

“The Light the Night event is designed to be a community event,” Moyer says. “Food was donated, and there were many children’s events, such as a magician, face painting and a balloon artist; a memorial garden; and a silent auction.”

Everyone at the event had a good time, says API advertising coordinator and Team Angus committee member Annie Jenson. “Between the face painting, carnival games, moon bounce and other entertainment, my boys had an absolute blast.”

As of press time, the Saint Joseph, Mo., walk had raised more than \$68,000 for research, with more money still coming in. Leading the list of contributors, Team Angus was proud to help light the night.

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