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**Left:** Bending over backwards to bring some extra excitement to the fourth annual Relay for Life held Friday, May 10, at Bonnel Field in West Caldwell, are, from left, fourth grader Meghan Tynan and seventh graders Sophia Bengriss, Julia Senif, Antonia Bustamante, Jack Payne and Alex Rosa, who are all part of Team Keep Calm and Cure On. The six limbo under the balloon-festooned start/finish line. **Right:** Members of Team Jose have some fun during the relay; they are, from left: Christina and Mike O'Brien of Roseland, Daniel Guerriero, a member of the James Caldwell High School Class of 2012; his mom, Cathleen Guerriero and his grandmother, Cecelia Scott of Roseland. The team walked in memory of Jose Braga of Millburn.

Photos by W.L. Bill Allen Jr.

# 'RELAY FOR LIFE' RAISES OVER \$70K

## Scores of people walk on Bonnel Field in fourth annual benefit for American Cancer Society

BY W. L. BILL ALLEN JR.  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**WEST CALDWELL TWP.** — Hundreds of people got moving on James Caldwell High School's Bonnel Field Friday night, not for their own lives, but to raise money to save the lives of others, during the fourth annual Relay for Life event.

Scores of teams from James Caldwell High School (JCHS), as well as the surrounding communities, walked, ran, trotted or employed any other sort of locomotion to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The idea was to have at least one member of each four-person contingent on the move constantly for about 12 straight hours.

After raising a total of \$117,000 for

cancer research and care in the first year, \$125K in year two and over \$100K again in year three, donations are a bit down so far this year, due to the economy, said interim advisers Christina Astorino and Amy Reszka, who are filling in for event co-founder Trish Martin, who is away on maternity leave.

Astorino and Reszka were aided in their efforts by co-chairs Jordan

Kurzum and Kelsey Allen, both of whom are seniors at JCHS. The pair reported 318 registered participants this year, including some cancer survivors, and a total of 35 teams.

Two members of the JCHS Class of 2011, Cassie Caruso and Lisa Housel, first brought the idea to the school in 2010.

Though planned to run through Sat-

urday morning, this year's event was cut short by the thunderstorms which overtook the area by 11 p.m. Friday, with some in the organization not wanting a Woodstock-like situation of mud and rain to be reenacted on the grass at Bonnel.

"We knew the rain was coming, but

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