

Sugarcreek woman organizes 5K walk and run for lung cancer

By Jeremy P. Kelley
Staff Writer

Thursday, October 30, 2008

SUGARCREEK TWP. Greene County — Tracey Morgan of Sugarcreek Twp. was a lifelong exercise enthusiast looking for a way to get motivated again after the birth of her daughter.

But her inspiration ended up coming from another generation.

Seven years after losing her mother to lung cancer, Morgan has organized the first local Free to Breathe 5K Walk and Run, to be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at Bellbrook High School. The race will benefit the National Lung Cancer Partnership.

"They didn't have a race locally, and I couldn't travel three states away, so I signed up to coordinate a race," Morgan said. "I felt compelled to do something."

The American Cancer Society estimates lung cancer will kill 7,350 Ohioans in 2008, more than breast, colon, ovary and prostate cancer combined.

But Morgan said she feels lung cancer sometimes doesn't get the attention of other cancers.

"It gets dismissed," she said. "Some people say, 'Well, you're a smoker, what do you expect?'"

The Lung Cancer Partnership, founded in 2001 by physicians and researchers, aims to decrease lung cancer deaths and help patients live longer and healthier lives through research, awareness and advocacy.

Morgan said she hopes Saturday's event will draw a wide range of people, from runners and walkers to cancer survivors and those who have been touched by the disease, to anyone who wanted to help.

Many participants are gathering pledges to raise money for the cause.

She said in addition to the 5K run and walk from the high school through Kable's Mill, there will be a 1-mile walk that might suit those with limited lung capacity.

Registration will be available Saturday morning at the high school. The \$25 cost includes a race T-shirt.

For more information, visit www.freetobreathe.org.

Contact this reporter at (937) 225-2278 or jkelly@DaytonDailyNews.com.