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nity and help find a cure for a deadly disease that continues to claim the lives of our loved ones.

"It's so heartwarming to see so many people come out and support this cause," she said. "The way our community responds to Relay For Life just warms my heart."

Alexander's Store was honored with a vote of confidence as the event's *Best Campsite*.

Parking was at a premium at this event.

"You had to get here early to find a good parking spot," said Sonny Mahan, of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC. "It's a great turnout, and that alone is enough to make you proud to be from Union County."

Teams taking part in the 2013 Relay For Life included Alexander's Store, Blairs-



Team Coosa UMC readies for Relay For Life at Union County Farmers Market. A good time was had by all. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ville School of Dance, CVS, Cancer Treatment Center of Blairsville, Union County American Cancer Society Board, Cadence Bank, Charlie's Rangers (McGraw Family), Coosa United Methodist Church, Curves of Blairsville, First United Methodist Church, High Mountain Health Care, Home Depot-Homer's Helpers, Mountain Presbyterian Church, Persaud Jewelry, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, St. Frances of Assisi Catholic Church, Team Caleb, Union General Hospital, United Community Bank, and Walmart.

This year's fund-raising goal was \$74,000.

More than 100 cancer survivors participated in this year's event at the Farmers Market.

The Union County American Cancer Society Relay For Life Planning Committee sends out a very big thank you to the entire community for such generous support in this battle against all types of cancers.

"Our 19th annual event was definitely blessed this year with the best weather we have had in the last five years," said event co-chair Allyson McGraw. "We were

also blessed with great facilities at our local Farmers Market. Thanks to Commissioner Lamar Paris, Mickey Cummings and our Union County and Blairsville City officials for their cooperation. We enjoyed a safe and well maintained facility.

"Our logistics chair Sue Upchurch is very thankful for Blairsville City employees who addressed an emergency with our water supply. Very few people even realized there was an interruption in the water service due to the quick response of city workers and our Union County EMS. They were terrific. Special thanks to our Union County Road Department staff for their leadership in getting our traffic in our parking areas well managed.

"All of our volunteers join Mrs. Upchurch in appreciation of so many who helped create a great community effort to 'Celebrate, Remember, and Fight Back.' Teams, businesses, volunteers, United Community Bank Junior Board of Directors, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Blairsville Kiwanis Club and Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts of America members and leaders are all to be commended

for their spirit of volunteerism and caring for our many cancer survivors, caregivers, and others touched by cancer in our community," McGraw said.

Folks would be hard pressed to encounter the amount of entertainment at this year's event.

That entertainment included Nelson Thomas, strumming his six-string and serenading the crowd with one folk song after another, including the John Denver smash hit, *Country Roads*.

"It's a pleasure to get out and be a part of something like this," Thomas said. "Getting out and playing music is like taking blood pressure medication to me. My blood pressure goes down for about two or three days after I perform. It's such a release for me.

"This is a great event to be a part of," Thomas said. "It's been going on for years and it's still amazing how many people keep coming back. They're excited and passionate about being here. The Farmers Market is the perfect venue for this event. "This event creates a lot of community camaraderie, which is nice to see," he said.



Left, Relay For Life goers had plenty to eat at the Survivors' Picnic; right, there was something to kick up your heels about at the 19th annual event at Union County Farmers Market on Friday. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

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There are vendors available to offer just the right flowers and plants, both annual and perennial, for your home flower garden needs.

The Market also is the place if you're looking for a graduation, Father's Day or birthday gift. Craft and artisan vendors including wood, iron and clay/pottery workers ply their magic here.

Natural soaps and lotions, jewelry, needlepoint, knitted and embroidered work and fabric items from purses to quilts can be found throughout the busy corridors.

"We've got it covered from A-Z this year, from Alpaca Products to Zesty Pickles," Cummings said.

Tuesdays at the Market continue to evolve as an enlightening experience. More food vendors will be participating this season on Tuesday evenings so you can come and enjoy dinner or dessert after shopping.

Bring your family, or start a Tuesday night dinner club with friends that meet at the market and enjoy the picnic tables and rocking chairs, Cummings said.

The picnic tables and rocking chairs that are available to all are a great way to take a load off your feet while enjoying a fresh squeezed lemonade or a bowl of old fashioned homemade ice cream.

This year some of the tables will be set up with checker and chess sets so that folks can sit and relax, chal-

lenge each other to a game and make the experience of "Meet and Greet" part of their routine, JoAnne Leone said.

"We want folks to not shop and leave, but to make it an outing where they enjoy the community fellowship that prevails each and every week," she said.

Volunteers are always needed to help with the events, sell shirts, show people how to sign up at the kiosk for event notifications, assist with food preparation on days that the Market gives away tomato sandwiches, watermelon, corn and conducts cooking demonstrations.

To sign up to volunteer, stop by the office during Market hours and ask for the volunteer contact form, Leone said.

Musicians, vocal and dance groups, magicians to jugglers are always welcome volunteers to add to the festivities. Anyone wishing to share their talents should contact Leone at (706) 781-3306 or email at UCFarmersMarket@gmail.com.

For more details about the Market, visit www.UCFarmersMarket.com.

For weekly event announcements and specials offered by the Market or the vendors, "LIKE" us on Facebook to get special notifications.

The Union County Farmers Market is located at 148 Old Smokey Road, in Blairsville.