



PHOTO. 4B
Pinot's Palette comes to campus.

“No More Cancer Rally” brings in over \$1,000 in goal-shattering night

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NEWS WRITER

The cowbells erupted as students danced around Centennial Hall at Arkansas State University. The joy was not for themselves, though, but for the sick children positively affected by the night's efforts.

The fundraiser, aptly titled the “No More Cancer Rally”, brought in over \$1,000 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as participants shattered expectations.

The doors opened at 7 p.m. on Oct. 1.

As students scanned QR codes at the door and entered into Centennial Hall to the tune of “Toosie Slide” by Drake, hope was in the air. Cowbells, pom-poms, fun-sized candy bars and instructions for setting up donation accounts lined the socially distanced tables. The smell of pizza filled the air as ambassadors all but demanded each student fill their plates to the brim prior to the event.

The ambassadors narrowly avoided disaster when they discovered the absence of any plates, just minutes before the doors opened. Luckily, the now overly appreciated plates arrived, tucked under the arms of an Up 'til Dawn member, mere seconds before the event began.

“September” by Earth, Wind, and Fire rang through Centennial Hall. Someone missed the memo that the calendar had shifted to



Larry Turner (left) and Keyon Atkins, ambassadors for A-State's St. Jude Up 'til Dawn organization, dance during the “No More Cancer Rally” at Centennial Hall. The fundraiser raised over \$1,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Photo by: Chase Gage | News Writer

October just 20 hours prior.

When the event officially kicked off, 38 students filled the seats of Centennial Hall while several others joined via Zoom. Such has become a custom of academia in the wake of the pandemic of 2020.

Allysa Weaver, executive director for St. Jude Up 'til Dawn at Arkansas State, put those numbers into perspective.

“We expected anywhere from 25-30 people and we had 38 here. So that was superb in our eyes,” Weaver said.

The goal was simple: raise money for children with cancer.

The means to reach that goal, though, were not as cut-and-dry.

All students involved had a series of simple tasks to complete. With each task, participants earned points. These points would eventually lead to prizes. Each task involved promoting the fundraiser to a higher degree. Setting a goal of \$200 awarded 10 points. Sharing personal thoughts on the importance of the event awarded 20.

The instructions told students to post their own personal donation links to their social media profiles, text friends

and family, and send a barrage of emails in an attempt to raise as much money as possible. Every cent mattered, after all.

According to the St. Jude fundraising website, \$10 could provide a toy for hospital play areas. A donation of \$30 could provide a day's worth of meals for a family at the hospital cafeteria. A generous donation upwards of \$100 could provide crutches to a child in need. Those who donate \$250 or more could help provide a red blood cell transfusion for a cancer patient.

At 7:49 p.m., they crossed the \$500 mark.

The “Cupid Shuffle” by Cupid came on the loudspeakers and participants took the hint to head to the dance floor. Pom-poms fluttered in the midst of the cowbells ringing as more donations came in. The dancing got a little more joyous.

Those who earned the most points could choose between a few T-shirts, a water bottle, and other knick-knacks. Winners approached the table at the front of the room to pick their mundane prizes. However, the children they helped in the process will receive much greater gifts.

They hit \$1,000 just 16 minutes later at 8:05 p.m.

Time wound down as the event came to a close. Participants would have the next 24 hours to reach their personal \$200 goal. Those who hit the goal would be entered to win one of two grand prizes: an iPad and a new television. The real prize, though, came in the form of a final tally at the end of the in-person event.

At 8:16 p.m., Weaver announced the grand total of \$1,062 raised for the children's hospital.

“It's always super uplifting and exciting to see Arkansas State care so much for the kids at St. Jude. It's very humbling,” Weaver said. “Our goal for the year is \$100,000. My personal goal is \$106,000. I'm hopeful we can surpass what A-State has done in the past. My goal for tonight was \$700 and we surpassed that. It feels good. It feels awesome.”

Events and Logistics Director Graylin Kelly was proud of the effort as well. He also noted the organization has more events coming up in October and to keep an eye on their Instagram account for details.

“I think it went really well, especially during a pandemic. To come out and raise over \$1,000 in less than an hour is pretty significant. Every little bit counts when you're trying to save kids from cancer.”

With every ring of a cowbell, a little more hope goes out into the world.

Pinot's Palette comes to campus in partnership with SAB

KRISHNAN COLLINS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

While soaking in the college experience might be more difficult than usual with COVID-19, events like Painting with Pinot's Palette still gave students a chance to go out and have some fun around campus.

The Student Activities Board teamed up with Pinot's Palette and gave students an opportunity to paint Red Wolf door hangers at the Heritage Plaza Lawn in front of the Student Union Monday night.

Freshman music education major and Keiser, Arkansas native Brayden McCall found out about the event on one of A-State's Instagram pages. McCall and his girlfriend decided to attend the event together.

“I feel like college is a lot about community and getting to know people,” McCall said. “This kind of gives people an opportunity to, while still socially distanced, come out and hang out with people and have a good time. Other than sitting in my dorm



Photo by: Hannah Risker | Photo Editor

Students socially distance while painting Red Wolf door hangers.

and doing Zoom classes it's nice to be able to get out and come do something. I'm enjoying it.”

Freshman nursing major from Little Rock, Alexandria Dixon, also found out about the event on Instagram.

“I decided to come because I don't have any decorations on my door and it's cute,” Dixon said. “It's my freshman year so I'm glad people are still kind of throwing events and stuff.

It's kind of hard to do stuff with a pandemic so I think it's important because we still need stuff to do besides go to class.”

Staff from Pinot's Palette passed out supplies and guided students on the best techniques to use while painting their door hangers.

Pinot's Palette is a paint studio that walks customers step by step through completing their own works of art. Pinot's

Palette hosts events where the customer can book their place ahead of time and knows what work of art they will be painting. The studio also hosts private events like birthday parties and bachelorette parties along with others.

This is not the first time Pinot's Palette has teamed up with SAB.

“Just as an event for the students, especially with COVID going on, something that they can do, social distance, but still have activities on campus,” said Pinot's Palette's Nic Bashaw. “Doing events like this gives you the opportunity to minimize the risk (of large, unsafe gatherings) but keep people, for the lack of a better word, entertained and give them something to do so they're not out seeking that in less safe environments.”

Bashaw said the event stands as advertising for Pinot's Palette, but there is more to the event than just the business side.

“This is a local college,” Bashaw said. “We get to come out and interact with people in the community, help out the SAB and it's just fun.”

Minority organizations recruit, inform at Diversity Fair

KRISHNAN COLLINS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a collaboration between the Student Government Association, the Multicultural Center and Student Diversity and Recruitment, a Diversity Fair took place on the Heritage Plaza Lawn Tuesday.

The purpose of the event stood to highlight minority organizations at A-State and help those organizations recruit more members.

Hispanic Outreach and Latino/a/x Appreciation Co-President Edica Tamez tabled at the event to expose HOLA to more people beyond just the specific minority group the organization usually targets.

“We want people to understand we are not exclusive to one race or one ethnicity,” Tamez said. “We are open to everybody including different class levels. We have undergrad students and graduate students.”

Through the coronavirus

pandemic Tamez said surprisingly it has not been that hard to recruit students or put on events especially among Hispanic and Latino students. However, recruiting other minorities and other students has been more difficult.

“The mission behind HOLA is to provide a second home for Latin students as well as a safe space for learning for students who are interested in our culture and our language,” the senior strategic communications major from Carrizo Springs, Texas said. “We volunteer within the community just to teach the community what Hispanic culture is, what we truly are and stand for.”

North Little Rock native and junior general sciences with an emphasis in biology major Giana McKinney represented Sister II Sister at the diversity fair.

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