

# THE MIRROR

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## New Townhouse Construction Causes Traffic Changes and Parking Frustrations



Construction in the Townhouse area began in the fall semester. Students were notified on March 10 that progress with the construction of two new Townhouse blocks would cause traffic changes for the rest of the spring semester.

By Madeline West  
Editor-in-Chief

By Max Limric  
Assistant News Editor

On March 10, an email was sent out from the Office of Residence Life to students living in the Townhouse area regarding the construction of the two new Townhouse blocks.

The progress of the construction was referenced in the email as the reasoning for the closure of a road and creation of a two-way road.

The parking area behind Townhouse Blocks 8 and 9 are now closed and there is no longer an outlet from Lynch Road onto Leeber Road. Lynch Road, which is adjacent to Townhouse Blocks 5 and 6 is now a two-way road to account for the lack of outlet to Leeber.

Captain Frank Ficko, from the

Department of Public Safety, brings up where students affected by the loss of parking in the Townhouse Blocks should park.

He states, "As a result of losing some townhouse "Yellow Zone" parking spaces, the overflow parking area remains the Jogues and Regis parking lots (Orange Zone lot). He continues with "Townhouse students are also permitted in lot H2 located on Mooney road."

With the implementation of these changes, new concerns have been voiced around the lack of parking as students returned to campus after spring break and have had to acclimate to the new parking and traffic guidelines.

These changes to parking and traffic flow are not new concerns for students, as parking was already a concern before these changes had even been put into effect.

Junior student Caroline McConville says, "parking has been an issue and

post spring break you can see even less spots are available. I think the new townhouses are a great addition but honestly this whole year, parking has been problematic."

Although the new Townhouses mean more housing options for rising Juniors, they are coming at a price to the residents living there this year.

Junior Hadley Waterbury expresses her frustration stating, "I have been looking forward to the privileges that come with being an upperclassman at Fairfield since freshman year."

Waterbury continues, "The construction that is taking place by the townhouses has made having a car on campus quite difficult."

She relays personal experiences and states, "It is incredibly frustrating to have a car that you are afraid to move after four o'clock because there

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## Red Sea Madness to be Hosted Off-Campus

By Max Limric  
Assistant News Editor

On March 22, at the Fairfield men's lacrosse game, Fairfield University Student Association President Tyler Heffern '22 and Vice President Cailyn Fiori '22 announced that after three years, Red Sea Madness would return with Flo Rida performing.

In the days leading up to the game, emails were sent out to the student body, which alluded to a "special announcement" that was going to be made at the game. At halftime, members of FUSA were introduced to raise anticipation for the big reveal.

Fiori could be heard over the loud-speaker saying, "It's been a long few years without some of our favorite campus traditions," and cued the audience to take a look over to the big screen.

The video started by showing Red Sea Madness performers from past years, and then cut to three years later with the big announcement that Flo Rida is coming to perform for Fairfield University, on April 22.

According to an article by The Mirror, Lil' Dicky, T-Pain, DNCE and Fetty Wap were all performers for Fairfield's Red Sea Madness years prior.

However, the spring concert this year will be different due to the fact that it will take place off campus. The concert will be hosted at Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater instead of Alumni Hall like years past, due to current construction preventing such occurrence.

Heffern states, "when we had our budget we initially planned for Alumni Hall, however in order to rent out an entire venue it would be an extraordinary amount of money."

Despite the event coinciding with a public event, Heffern relays that FUSA acquired the whole floor for students only separate from others attending the event.

More so, Fiori and Heffern state that holding an event at a public venue allows for bigger names to headline. Heffern explains that during the process, the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater "asked for a list of artists and we gave them five big names, and they chose one accordingly for timing and budget wise."

**"Just being able to have the concert is something fortunate to do given the circumstances."**

- Cailyn Fiori '22, FUSA Vice President

Given the events of COVID not allowing a spring concert to occur for the past two years, Fiori feels that "just being able to have the concert is something fortunate to do given the circumstances."

Student reactions to the choice of performer varied following FUSA's reveal. First-year Jennifer Pena isn't concerned with who is playing and says, "I'm just ready for a good concert. It honestly doesn't matter who's performing."

Other students are equally as eager just to be attending the concert, since last year's Red Sea Madness event was canceled. "I'm super excited for Red Sea Madness to be back, especially because we didn't get to experience it freshman year," says sophomore Elizabeth Decrisanti.

Other students genuinely enjoy Flo Rida's music and appreciate him as a performer.

First-year Sam Flores says, "I've never seen him perform live, so I'm very excited to see what he brings to the stage." "I'm also looking forward to hearing some great throwbacks like 'Low' and 'Wild Ones'. I think it'll be a really fun time," Flores added.

Junior Renee Levesque is another fan of Flo Rida. "I'm really excited for Flo Rida," she says. "I think he has a lot of well-known songs that are fun to sing and dance to," Levesque continues, "so I'm looking forward to a fun concert with a high-energy crowd."

FUSA's Facebook page posted that Fairfield students will get "exclusive access to the Flo Rida concert" and to "stay tuned for further details."



Photo Courtesy of @mohegansun Instagram

Mohegan Sun Casino Located in Uncasville, Conn.

Tickets for the Fairfield University Student Association Sponsored 50 Nights to Graduation celebration at Mohegan Sun Casino went on sale Tuesday, March 29 at 12 p.m. The event quickly sold out within minutes leading many Seniors to feel frustrated at the lack of ticket availability. Later that afternoon, FUSA sent out another email to seniors offering an opportunity to place themselves on a waiting list, "Should a student return their ticket for the event." Before this email was sent out students who were able to reserve tickets had already begun to sell their tickets to students who wished to attend. The 50 Nights event is set to take place this Friday, April 1 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight.

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# Humanitarian Action Club Leads Stags to Make Global Impacts

By Madeline West  
Editor-in-Chief

The Humanitarian Action club is a student club that raises awareness on campus about humanitarian issues and builds strategies for responding to humanitarian crises.

On March 23, Magdalena Dutkowska '22 and Julia Neal '23 spoke about what the club offers as well as what they are doing with regards to the current Ukrainian crisis in their projects this semester.

Dutkowska has been a member of the club since her first year at Fairfield and has held a leadership position as a fellow since her sophomore year.

"Our club is different because we don't necessarily have a club president and vice president... we just have leadership positions of fellows" Dutowska states. She continues, "these fellows share all responsibilities but there's not a hierarchical set up like other clubs."

Neal has been a part of the club since her first year and has served as a fellow since her sophomore year.

When asked what drew them to join the club both members shared the paths that led them to their current position.

Neal says her high school experiences drew her to join as well as the club fair her first year.

Dutkowska explains that before she started at Fairfield "there was a summer program that led students with diverse backgrounds to get a college feel where I found out about the Humanitarian Action minor."

Dutkowska also mentions Julie Mughal, Ph.D., associate director for humanitarian action, was of help and "encouraged [her] to participate in the club, which is more of the engagement/ student participation side of the minor."

Dutkowska continues to express how she "loved all the work we were doing and kept up with it and eventually got where I am today."

Both Neal and Dutowska relay that the Humanitarian Action Club focuses its approach based on student interest in particular issues.

On Feb. 24, Russia invaded Ukraine and the past several weeks have consisted of a bombardment of the country's cities and towns leading to 800 civilian deaths, destroyed infrastructure, and more than 3.3 million people fleeing.

The struggles and devastation does not appear anywhere close to being resolved and global action is crucial in aiding those being impacted. The Humanitarian Action Club has been working to assist with the crisis and has been able to raise funds to help.

Specifically, when asked about the crisis in Ukraine, Dutkowska states "with the whole situation, a lot of our club members are personally affected by the war going on."



Magdalena Dutkowska '22 (left) and Julia Neal '23 (right), both fellows for the club helped host the club's "Fall Fest." The club raised over \$900 for the two refugee resettlement organizations CIRI and IRIS, as well as Girl Up through the event that took place in November 2021.

She continues, "we are really proud of how diverse our club members are, we have so many international students and local students whose parents have international backgrounds... so we felt that... we have to do something in terms of helping our own families and members."

The club members first reached out to members to see if any of their family were in Ukraine or attempting to flee Ukraine and if they needed anything directly, however they were assured the family members were safe.

Next the club wanted to ensure that any organization they paired with all the proceeds made went directly to those being impacted in the crisis. They chose to work with Nova Ukraine in which Dutkowska explains works "directly out of Ukraine, and have been established even before the Ukrainian war crisis."

The club set up a Facebook fundraiser since it would be easier to share with family and peers. Even more, Facebook was chosen as to not take out a percentage of the profit like other companies, such as GoFundMe do.

Through this fundraiser the club raised over \$1,400, raising \$1,000 in just the first 24 hours alone.

Dutkowska states, "it showed how many people just want to get involved in the community. It was really incredible."

Neal continued to explain the club's continuing efforts reflecting back on last year's collaboration with Wine to Water. Neal explains "it is an organization that sends water filters to third world countries so people can get clean water access."

The club has worked with Wine to Water before, but they are working with this organization once more, while the efforts will be additionally helping Ukraine.

Neal also mentions that in future events such as a sticker booth and their website there is a direct link to donate to Ukraine.

Those interested in donating can go to <https://humanitarian-action-club.square.site/> to order custom stickers. Once ordered then send the image you want printed to [humanitarianactionclub@gmail.com](mailto:humanitarianactionclub@gmail.com). With regards to jerky for anyone interested in buying a bag will be sold for 13\$ and can be bought by venoming @Magdalena-Dutowska.

Students interested in getting involved in the club directly can visit the Humanitarian Action Club page at [my.fairfield.com](http://my.fairfield.com). There, students can receive weekly emails and information on meetings on Thursdays at 8 p.m.

Neal explains that students should join because "it is a group that does have this foundational want and need to help others."

Neal continues that "it creates this kind of vulnerability...but also it creates a really safe environment."

Neal further says, "I was thinking about transferring from Fairfield and this club really helped me stay because of the great tight knit community [and] being able to advocate for different organizations that people might not have heard of."

"It's a club where we really value the opinions and personal experiences of the students," Neal states.

Dutkowska explains that "whatever one of our club members is going through, we're kind of all going through it in the sense, the amount of support the club and the Center for Social Impact gives us."

The Center for Social Impact is the faculty and mentors who Magdalena states "are always supporting and guiding the students, whether it's educational or through the club, which is just a great support system to have."

Both Neal and Dutkowska expressed future plans and hopes for the club.

Neal says she plans for the club "to continue advocating for different organizations and continuing to listen to the students, and just becoming more involved in different organizations that we might not have known about."

Moreover, she wants to get "students and inviting students by letting them know that they can come and join us and our group that is made up of people from different backgrounds, and we really do advocate for everyone."

Dutkowska shares similar sentiment as Neal but states the main goal for this semester is the Wine to Water fundraising, in which different efforts will continue for students and faculty to take part.

If students would like to contribute, they are encouraged to visit the Humanitarian Action Clubs Instagram @fairfieldhumanaction and click on the link tree to be directed to various fundraisers.

Additionally, if anyone is interested in joining, students are encouraged to email [humanitarianactionclub@gmail.com](mailto:humanitarianactionclub@gmail.com) to be placed on the weekly mailing list.



Photo Courtesy of  
@winetowater Instagram

The @winetowater posted on Instagram their logo, and captioned "stand with Ukraine" in light of Russia's ongoing invasion.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION CLUB

## BEEF JERKY SALE

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1 bag for \$13  
2 bags for \$25  
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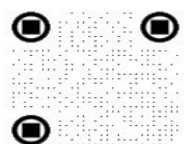
IMPORTED FROM CA

## ALL PROCEEDS GO TO WINE TO WATER

Center for Social Impact

# STAGS Hospitality

Proud to support Fairfield University







Compiled by Max Limric  
Information contributed by the  
Department of Public Safety.

3/23  
2:30 p.m.  
A student reported their wallet and phone stolen from Trader Joe's.

3/25  
7:53 p.m.  
A baseball went through the window of a Jogues Hall dorm.

3/27  
12:15 a.m.  
Two male students were documented for trespassing in the Convocation Center construction site.

3/28  
4:00 p.m.  
Two Gonzaga Hall residents were found in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Fairfield University DPS and Fairfield PD are hosting a Polar Plunge on Saturday, April 2nd to raise money for the Special Olympics being held at Jennings Beach. Volunteers are needed. If interested reach out to: mkoonitsky@fairfield.edu.



# Students Push for More Parking as New Residences are Built

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is a good chance that when you come back you will not be able to park anywhere you are assigned and therefore you will receive a parking ticket."

"It is incredibly frustrating to have a car that you are afraid to move after four o'clock because there is a good chance that when you come back you will not be able to park anywhere you are assigned and therefore you will receive a parking ticket."

- Hadley Waterbury '23

She lives right next to the construction in a Townhouse on 6 Block, which has posed even larger inconveniences.

"The [new] two way street [has] barely any place to turn around," Waterbury continues "so if you risk driving down to see if there is a spot, there is a good chance that you will be forced to back out or get stuck with many cars behind you," Waterbury said.

Ficko offers a timeline for the construction of the new Townhouses.

"I anticipate the current traffic configuration to remain in place through the end of the semester," and that "completion is scheduled for the start of the Fall 22 semester."

Ficko says that he is not aware of any complaints that have arisen because of the new traffic changes, but students around campus have voiced their concern, just not formally to DPS.

Junior Jake Cartisano expresses that, "It's an ongoing battle to park your car at the townhouses with less and less spots everyday." Similar to Waterbury, he noted the challenge of finding a spot later in the day.

"But don't park your car in the wrong lot when there are no spots [where you have] a pass — they are quick to ticket you," he added.

The Mirror also reached out to David Fransinelli, associate director of facilities with regards to how the administration is working to combat parking issues with rising accepted students and expansive construction, but no response was received.

Additionally, with the ever growing population of students at Fairfield, the issue of

parking is prevalent in students minds.

Sophomore Lauren Basso expresses, "I am excited that new townhouses are being built, but I wish our school would accommodate and create more parking lots as well."

Basso continues, "Parking is already a challenge, and I'm sure this will only make it difficult."

Current townhouse resident, Theresa Morrissey '23 added, "while I think it is important to build more places to live to help students from having to live in triples, I often find myself looping around the townhouses to find parking for long periods of time with no luck and it's honestly so frustrating."

In addition to the new townhouse blocks being constructed, a February 22 article published by the Mirror, stated that a new first-year dormitory in the Quad is in the planning stage and set to be built to accommodate for the rising number of accepted students.

Fairfield University Student Association President Tyler Heffern '22 also spoke upon the rise of student enrollment in connection with the parking issue and states "the rise in student enrollment reflects the university's strategic goal of growing our community. However, as we have seen over the past few years, our resources are being overwhelmed and stretched thin."

He continues to mention other ways in which the influx of accepted students has posed issues for current ones stating that "Tully lines during rush periods are longer than ever, appointments can become difficult to make with Counseling, Accessibility, and career-oriented offices, converted triples have returned, and of course there are more cars in our community than places to park them."

"I am excited that new townhouses are being built, but I wish our school would accommodate and create more parking lots as well."

- Lauren Basso '24

Heffern says that many students have voiced this frustration to FUSA regarding parking, "especially among Barnyard, Village and North Townhouse residents."

"The principal problem at hand is that as new residence

spaces are being built and more students are being enrolled, there has not been a related increase in parking spaces" Heffern relays.

He continues, "this has put a considerable strain on the spots that already exist, especially events hosted by Athletics and the Leslie C. Quick Center have returned to in-person formats."

Heffern offers three approaches to be made to potentially combat the parking issues.

The first suggestion is building more parking lots or garages on campus. However, he acknowledges "this would put a further strain on our usable land, potentially destroy protected wildlife or faculty research areas and further diminish the 'beauty' of our campus green spaces."

"The principal problem at hand is that as new residence spaces are being built and more students are being enrolled, there has not been a related increase in parking spaces"

- Tyler Heffern '22, FUSA President

Secondly, Heffern acknowledges potentially relocating certain populations of the community to off-campus lots or garages for permanent parking with transportation to and from campus.

The third option Heffern expressed is "decreasing the number of cars arriving on campus every day, which may involve incentives for students to not bring their cars, or identifying alternative forms of on and off-campus transportation like bikes, scooters and Zipcars."

FUSA has created the parking committee, which "is exploring all of these options and FUSA in particular has helped strategize ways of encouraging students to refrain from bringing their cars to school, results that likely will not be tested until next academic year," Heffern states.

There will be a survey sent out to students regarding campus transportation in the future, and FUSA will continue to engage with administration on how to resolve some of the stress that comes with it.

If there are any concerns that students have with parking, FUSA encourages students to email fusa@fairfield.edu.

## THE MIRROR

Incorporated 1977

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*The Mirror Radio Show  
is back on the air!*

TUNE IN WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7-8PM ON WVOF.ORG EVERY WEEK!



# Art for Advocacy Exhibit Planned in Honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Peyton Perry  
Head News Editor

The Center for Family Justice has partnered with the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) for Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Crimes Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) to host the traveling exhibit, "Art for Advocacy."

The event is planned to take place at Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University, Housatonic Community College and the University of Bridgeport this coming April.

**"This inspiring project helps us spread that message that we are there to offer victims and survivors our free, confidential services,"**  
- Debra Greenwood, president & CEO for the Center for Family Justice

Fairfield students, faculty and staff are now able to submit artwork for the Center for Family Justice's public exhibit, which will promote public awareness of the support and resources offered to victims of sexual assault and other forms of crime, both on and off-campus.

According to Salaha Kabir, Fairfield University's sexual violence and campus advocate, the exhibit will be displayed in the Dogwood Room located in the Barone Campus Center on April 4 and 5.

Geanella Suarez, Fairfield University's bilingual sexual violence and campus advocate, first sent an email out to Fairfield students on March 9, which contained information on two of the main displays, "What Were You Wearing?" and "Survivors + Art Gallery," as well as instructions detailing how to submit artwork.

In accordance with Suarez's

email, the display, "What Were You Wearing," is centered around showcasing the varying types of clothing that victims were wearing when they were sexually assaulted, all based on real "survivor descriptions."

The purpose of this exhibit, according to Suarez, is to eradicate the "victim-blaming myth" that clothing can somehow "invite" one's sexual assault.

The second display, "Survivor + Allies Gallery," welcomes survivors and allies to submit art that is inspired by the NCVRW theme of rights, access and equity for all victims. Artists have the choice to further incorporate the NCVRW theme colors of blue, green and orange into their artwork, according to Suarez's email, or submit creative writing like poetry.

When reflecting on her and Suarez's roles as campus advocates, Kabir stated, "We want them [students] to be active. We want them to be the leaders on campus while we're just a support for them." She further shared that they are always contemplating how they can do just that.

The two were first inspired to create and apply for a grant to host the public exhibit, "Art for Advocacy," after seeing the rewarding outcome that bringing the "My Red Lips" campaign to Fairfield had. Kabir shared that over 300 affirmations and red lip cut outs were placed on their mirror, which traveled with them to all four college campuses.

This event led to the answer of their previous question: how can the University get students more engaged?

The two realized that tabling on college campuses and putting up posters was not as beneficial in raising awareness and support as actual, physical events like this one.

"Art for Advocacy" was the best thing because everybody has some creative talent to them," said Kabir. "Whether you think you're an artist or not, there's something you can do to put into our exhibit."

Kabir continued to speak of the purpose and hopes of the public exhibit that will be traveling to

**"One of the portions of our exhibit is to take a stance against violence. You don't have to have been going through any form of crime to be able to come here and feel welcome,"**  
- Salaha Kabir, sexual violence and campus advocate

the four college campuses this April.

"This space is for students and for any members of the community, to use as a blank canvas to express themselves, bring in the issues and the language and representation of identities, cultures and communities that are invisible, that need more awareness of conversations that we need to have but are not having," said Kabir.

Beth Fitzpatrick, community relations coordinator at the Center for Family Justice, shared a statement made by Debra Greenwood, president and chief executive officer for the Center for Family Justice.

"As we know, one out of five women and one out of 14 men have experienced sexual abuse as children. Unfortunately, we know that means there are survivors on our college campuses," said Greenwood, according to Fitzpatrick.

"Getting out the message that we are there to support them through our Campus Advocacy Team is so important. This inspiring project helps us spread that message that we are there to offer victims and survivors our free, confidential services," said Greenwood according to Fitzpatrick.

In addition to the two art displays, Suarez stated that there will also be a panel and resource fair, highlighting SAAM and other forms of violence including but not limited to human

trafficking, police brutality and hate crimes.

"This is not an exhibit just for survivors and victims, this is for allies as well," said Suarez.

"One of the portions of our exhibit is to take a stance against violence. You don't have to have been going through any form of crime to be able to come here and feel welcome," she said.

Kabir acknowledged how participation for this exhibit may be triggering to some, especially victims. She continued to offer some advice for such individuals.

"Think of your submission as a point of healing, as a point of connection, as a point of building communities and allies through your artwork," she said.

**R e m e m b e r , j u s t think of the positives of the submission that you present for us."**

Kabir further shared that April 26th is the "biggest day" for the public to attend the exhibit at Housatonic Community College, as not only will all four universities be in attendance to rally support for victims, but three panelists will also join to give their remarks.

Students, faculty, peers and other members of the Fairfield community can still register for the exhibit through the registration form shared within Suarez's email.

This project was supported by a National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project subgrant awarded by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators under cooperative agreement with the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, and U.S. Department of Justice.



# Annual Relay for Life Event Held In-Person for the First Time Since the Pandemic

By Olivia Burke  
Contributing Writer



Annie Neger '25 (left) and Kristen Londergan '25 (right) pose at the Relay for Life event on March 25th. The event raised money for the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life, a movement dedicated to fighting cancer, hosted their annual relay event last Friday, March 25 to fundraise for the American Cancer Society.

For the first time in three years, the club hosted an in-person event in the Leslie C. Quick, Jr. Recreation Complex at Fairfield University. Relay for Life traditionally had not held any in-person fundraisers since 2019, due to the pandemic, Gabriel Rodrigues '22, a student-member of the Relay for Life club on campus, said.

He further stated that the event included a luminaria

ceremony and cancer walk, pizza, games, giveaways, a D.J. and more.

"We had a duck hunt, a knockout game and a performance by Fairfield's Dance Fusion," Rodrigues recounted.

"After the ceremony, the events continued throughout the night; this included more raffle giveaways and an epic musical chair battle," he said.

Rodrigues shared further, "We blew through our attendance expectations and that was incredibly heartwarming to see."

"It looked like a sea of

purple... [members] from every facet of the community came" he stated.

Many students, faculty, parents and staff came to show their support. David Axelrod, cancer survivor and founder of the Relay for Life club on campus and Colleges Against Cancer was also in attendance.

The event lasted from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m., with the luminaria ceremony and cancer walk taking place at 9 p.m.

The ceremony included bags, which could be purchased and decorated.

Attendees filled their bags with glow sticks, each labeled with the name of an individual in remembrance of those who passed away from or are currently struggling with cancer.

The luminaria ceremony "...was incredibly moving," said Rodrigues.

"Dom Pappalardo gave a heart wrenching account of his fight with cancer, filled with his humor and will to live. This was followed up by a video speech by Peyton Siegel, Charlie Capalbo's girlfriend, on the incredible strength and resilience Charlie exhibits, despite numerous life threatening complications." He added, "These speeches are a reminder that despite how hopeless we may feel at times, we should never ever give up hope," he said.

Capalbo is a

**"We blew through our attendance expectations and that was incredibly heartwarming to see."**

- Gabriel Rodrigues '22  
Relay for Life Club  
President

member of the Class of 2022 who has battled cancer since 2017.

This ceremony was a way to remember those who have passed from cancer, and

also to generate hope for those who are still fighting or know someone who is still battling.

This fundraiser took place on behalf of the American Cancer Society, an organization who will be donating 78 cents of every dollar raised during the event towards helping cancer patients.

Rodrigues shared that they were able to raise \$22,000 altogether, which will lay the groundwork for future relays held.

Relay for Life served as one way for students to support the millions of people who are diagnosed with, or know someone who has been diagnosed, with cancer.

Rodrigues ended by sharing the gratitude he feels for all those who contributed to the event.



A student decorates a poster to be held up at the Relay for Life event in the RecPlex. Posters were held in support of those who have faced or are currently facing cancer.