

## Cancer Volunteer Lobbies Congress

Cindy Brunner, Systems Administrator, took her cancer advocacy to Washington, D.C., September 15-18 during the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) Leadership Summit and Lobby Days at the U.S. Capitol.

The leadership summit encompassed two days of training and meetings before 750 ACS CAN advocates descended on the Capitol on September 17 to urge Congress to increase funding for cancer research and early detection priorities.

Brunner and her fellow Florida team members met with members of Congress and their staff to share their cancer stories and put a face to why we need to increase cancer funding, approve the Multi Cancer Early Detection (MCED) test, and keep cancer a national priority.

"Everyone is affected by cancer – whether themselves, a family member, a coworker, or a friend," Brunner said. "The American Cancer Society and the ACS CAN are working to help us see a world without cancer. It's imperative to keep the funding for the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute to continue working on groundbreaking technologies to not only cure, but to prevent cancer from occurring in the first place."

A highlight of the event was the Lights of Hope luminaria at Congressional Gardens on Tuesday evening.

Thousands of luminarias from around the nation were placed to help raise cancer awareness. Cindy raised over \$600 for advocacy and cancer research.

While the weather was less than ideal, the spirit of hope was present throughout the evening.

"I met some amazing people, and I learned so much in my three days in Washington, D.C." Brunner said. "There's a new test, the multicancer early detection (MCED), that can detect multiple cancers with a single blood draw. We know that early detection means better outcomes and this test could be what saves millions of lives. I want to do my best to ensure that everyone I know has the tools and information they need to live cancer free."

The American Cancer Society is one of Citizens' seven approved charities and offers many opportunities for employees to volunteer. From Relay for Life and Making Strides walks (coming up on October 19 in Jacksonville) to volunteering at the Hope Lodge in Jacksonville, or being a Road to Recovery driver for cancer patients who need rides to doctor appointments and treatment, there's something for everyone.

As a reminder, Citizens allows up to four hours of administrative leave per month to participate in volunteer activities through the Community Volunteer and Mentor Program.