

## Larger story, cause behind purple toilets

To the Editor:

The Martin County West Relay for Life teams — deemed “The Wild West I & II” — are taking a new approach to battling cancer: Flushing it out.

This past Thursday, purple toilets were delivered to front lawns in Trimont, Sherburn, Fairmont — even as far as Truman. However comedic the thought of a purple toilet in a front lawn may be, the toilets are not just for a good laugh. More importantly, the decadent toilets are for a greater cause.

Purple is the universal color for cancer, and that is exactly what the toilets are battling. If the lucky person who receives a toilet on their front lawn wants it removed, it will cost \$10. Even better, if the person wants their friend to enjoy the picturesque purple toilet on their front lawn and to ensure it never returns to their own front yard again, it costs them \$20. For a grand total of \$30, they can have insurance that a purple toilet won't appear on their front lawn ever again.

With this unique fundraiser, the Wild West teams are hoping to raise money as well as awareness of cancer. They have pretty good motive. Over the past several years, students of Martin County West have been helping to battle cancer with drive and determination. It all started when a couple of students from the small MCW Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter wanted to go beyond cancer awareness at the state competition. They wanted to increase awareness in their community. They were aware of the Relay for Life at the Martin County Fairgrounds, but they wanted to do more to show their empathy and support for the members of their own MCW community suffering cancer. That's exactly what they did. It wasn't easy, but the MCW FCCLA chapter, along with help from friends and family, put on a “mini” relay for

life. The relay was a huge success and helped the Martin County West group reach their primary goals: To raise awareness of cancer and to show support and compassion for those affected by cancer.

During the event, the MCW FCCLA members were approached by a Martin County West Relay for Life committee member and were asked to donate their funds at the relay in July. That's how the involvement with the Martin County Relay began. The MCW FCCLA members agreed to come.

The first few years were a little rocky — this last year the team maxed out at only six members, with the majority being students. After MCW FCCLA participated in the relay, other student groups were interested in supporting the cause. This included MCW's Future Farmers of America group. With the support of FFA students and advisers, the Martin County West Relay Team membership has gone from six members just last year to 30 members this year.

Each of the 30 has somehow been affected by cancer, whether personally or through a close family member or friend(s). Their support and compassion for their family, friends and community is what has driven them to become so involved. If it means driving 50- to 100-pound toilets to front lawns across southern Minnesota, so be it. They'll do whatever it takes in their quest to “flush out cancer.”

If you are interested in donating this lovely token to a friend or family member's yard, contact Dana Faber at (507) 236-5647 and we'll be happy to deliver it directly to them for the extra \$10 fee. Look for this purple beacon in your community and maybe even on your own yard, and help us support the Martin County Relay for Life, which will be held July 18.

**Mercedes Hodges  
and The Wild West I and II  
Welcome**

