

# Teen helps community fight illness

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

**HORSEHEADS** — During the spring of 1989, Megan Maslar began experiencing headaches all the time.

But when the youth group member at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Elmira found out what was causing the headaches — *lymphomatoid granulomatosis*, a rare form of cancer that causes lesions in her lungs and brain — she felt a far greater pain.

"It's like I couldn't really accept it," said Maslar, a junior at Horseheads High School. "I just thought it wasn't true."

Over time, Maslar learned that she would have to endure such treatments as chemotherapy for her condition. The disease, combined with the side effects of the treatments, weakened her body. The physical drain made her grow tired quickly, restricting her ability to walk great distances.

A former student at Elmira Notre Dame High School, Maslar had to transfer last year to Horseheads High School because she could no longer handle the daily commute. She now spends half-days studying at Horseheads.

"I can usually get through the day without getting tired," she said.

But tired wasn't even in Maslar's vocabulary on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 6, when she participated in "Making Strides Against Cancer," a five-mile "move-along-a-thon" held at Chapel Park in Pine City. The event was sponsored by the Chemung County unit of the American Cancer Society.



Megan Maslar, a member of the youth group at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Elmira, prepares to participate in 'Making Strides Against Cancer' in Pine City's Chapel Park Oct. 6. The five-mile 'move-along-a-thon' was sponsored by the Chemung County unit of the American Cancer Society.

Phillip Archer/Photo Intern



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When she crossed the finish line, Maslar became the holder of an area record, said Nancy Kallenborn, program director for the Chemung County unit of the American Cancer Society.

"She's a real spunky gal," Kallenborn said of Maslar, who turned 16 on Oct. 3. "Megan raised more money than any individual in 'Making Strides.'"

Pushing herself along in her wheelchair with the help of some close friends, Maslar raised more than \$470 in pledges. Her efforts helped the agency raise more than \$11,000 during the event.

"We were really pleased with her," Kallenborn exclaimed.

As for Maslar, who hopes to beat her condition and go to college in two years,

helping people fight cancer is just another way she reaches out to those around her. She keeps a diary where she pens her thoughts about life, sometimes scribbling down "editorials" arguing for new laws that would help improve today's society, Maslar said.

An avid reader, Maslar said she enjoys books dealing with philosophical issues. She hopes to become a psychologist someday because she likes to talk to people about their problems. Occasionally, friends seek out her advice, she commented.

"I got like a book about families and stuff," she said. "I thought I could help some people if I try to be reasonable. I think it's interesting to help people."

### Classical ballerina joins color guard at Bishop Kearney

ROCHESTER — Jamey Throumoulos, a classical ballerina with the Timothy Draper Dance Theatre, recently joined the teaching staff of Bishop Kearney High School's Color Guard.

In addition to the color guard, she will teach a weekly ballet class with the school's dance ensemble.

Throumoulos attended the Pennsylvania School of the Arts on a full scholarship in 1990, when she became an apprentice to the Pennsylvania Ballet Theatre.

She recently won the titles of Dance Master of America and Miss Dance of Western New York State.

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