

WHY I RACE FOR THE PLACE: NANCY



I wanted to share why The Gathering Place is so special to me.

When I started working at Advance Partners in 2013, I had never heard of TGP. But that quickly changed. I got very involved in planning our yearly fundraising campaign, and it became something I was truly passionate about. Even though my career has always been in the credit field, my heart has always been in fundraising.

Over the years, I've been lucky to help raise thousands of dollars for amazing causes like Harvest for Hunger and St. Jude's. Advance gave us the freedom to get creative — from raffles to bake sales — and it not only boosted morale at work but also made a real impact for The Gathering Place.

For a long time, my personal connection to cancer was distant — just a few elderly relatives who, thankfully, beat it. But in March 2024, that all changed. One of my very best friends, Yvonne, passed away after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Diagnosed in 2020, she fought so hard for four years, always staying positive and believing she would beat it. Sadly, on March 5, 2024, she lost that battle at just 57 years old.

Now, my friend Lillian and I work year-round — selling muffins, organizing 50/50 raffles, and putting together raffle baskets — so that when Race for the Place comes in June, we're ready with a big pile of donations to help support The Gathering Place.

I do it for Yvonne.

Because I know it would make her smile to see others, who are fighting like she did, get the wonderful support and care that The Gathering Place provides.

Thank you for all that you do.

-Nancy Imes, Team Advance Partners