

American Cancer Society  
Mid-Atlantic Division, Inc.

# 2002 Awards Presentation



## Board of Trustees Award 2000 – 2001

### Roger and Kathy Cawthon

The Board of Trustees Award is presented to a unit volunteer or community member who has made a significant difference in his or her community. Such contributions may include the creation of a new means of delivering a service or program, monetary donation, undertaking a specific project under difficult circumstances or reaching underserved populations in a unique way.

In 2000 – 2001, the Peninsula Relay For Life Committee in Region VII realized that they had outgrown their site in Newport News, Virginia. If the event were to grow, they would need to add a sister site in Hampton, Virginia. Fortunately, two longtime Relay volunteers envisioned a plan to unite the two cities and create a “one event, two locations” Relay. Roger and Kathy Cawthon developed the idea of a “Torch Relay,” and with their vision a united Peninsula set out to fight cancer by creating an event within an event.

Kathy and Roger worked with police, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Engineering, special events offices and emergency services in Newport News and Hampton to expand Relay For Life to the additional site. They were instrumental in addressing logistical issues and effectively expediting local regulations and licensing procedures critical to a successful sister Relay event in Hampton.

The day of the event, the torch was carried for eight hours along a 15-mile route to unite the two Relays. The Torch Relay helped to forge partnerships with community offices, businesses, schools and churches throughout the communities, bringing a deeper awareness of the work of the American Cancer Society to all the people involved. Kathy and Roger Cawthon have truly made a difference in their community and beyond.

