

## **Cowgirl Volleyball Raise over \$15,000 with Dig for the Cure**

The Coppell Cowgirl Volleyball program hosted the 3rd annual “Dig for the Cure” on October 6th, while taking on the Lewisville Lady Farmers. This fund raiser was started in 2007 by former captain Laurie McNamara (CHS Grad '08) and over \$44,000 has been raised for Komen Dallas County in the past three volleyball seasons. With much diligence and pride for this cause, the 2009 volleyball teams surpassed their goal and raised over \$15,000. Kelsey Preston, Senior setter and daughter of a breast cancer survivor, shared her thoughts on the event, “it was very successful and we raised so much money. I am really glad the citizens of Coppell support us so much and donated as much as they did! All the money is really going to save someone’s life and I know it is worth the time and effort we all put into this.”

Komen Dallas County will use the majority of the proceeds from “Dig for the Cure” to assist those who cannot afford mammograms or treatments for breast cancer. The remaining funds will go towards research to help discover a cure. Komen representative Melanie Kaye attended the “Dig for the Cure” event at Coppell High School and provided information so that all in attendance that evening could better understand the high risk and incidence of breast cancer.

“This was a total team effort by our athletes, coaches, Booster Club, and community,” Coach Hankins said. Money was raised by pledges for the number of digs (61) in the Varsity match, flat donations, and the sales of pink t-shirts and cookies. Athletes from both Coppell and Lewisville warmed up in pink t-shirts, which were designed by Cowgirl captain Shelby Tamura, and were also able to recognize, during player introductions, someone they personally knew that has been affected by cancer. Also during the ceremony, captains from Coppell and Lewisville read the overwhelming statistics of breast cancer and the number of women who will continue to be stricken with the disease if a cure is not found.

After totaling all donations, Coach Hankins stated, “I am honored that our program can do this for Komen Dallas County and for all women. I am very proud of our athletes for working so hard for this cause. To raise \$15,000 with 53 athletes and in our economic situation, speaks highly of our athletes and their dedication in reaching such an important goal. A team sport, such as volleyball, teaches young ladies how important it is to work with and for others. In real life, it’s essential that we all strive to give more than we take—“Dig for the Cure” takes the focus off the scoreboard and helps us realize we should do all we can to help others through difficult times.”