



## Rosie Perkins

In every person's life are events that are like "ticks" on a timeline. These situations or ticks are often used in conversations as reference points in time. For example, "before college," "after my car accident" or "before this person passed away." It's strange how certain events can significantly alter the way a person thinks, feels and responds.

For Rosie Perkins, American Hereford Association (AHA) record clerk and mail room operator, a "tick" on her timeline occurred in 2000 when her grandson, Dalton Perkins, passed away after a six-year battle with leukemia. After Dalton's struggle Rosie became a dedicated advocate and supporter of cancer research through fund raising.

Each year with the support of AHA Executive Vice President Craig Huffhines, she organizes a "dress down day" to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Everyone at the AHA who donates receives a sticker and is allowed to wear casual clothing to the office on the designated "dress down day." This summer Rosie collected \$180 in donations from AHA staff.

Every September for the past three years, Rosie has collected money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's annual "Light the Night" walk. Almost 50 of Rosie's family and friends met this year to honor those who have

been lost to cancer and for cancer survivors. They call themselves the Dalton Gang and wear shirts with Dalton's picture. Rosie gathered \$800 in donations this year that will go toward cancer research.

While Rosie is a dedicated philanthropist, she also has the same enthusiasm and dedication for the AHA. Rosie joined the accounting department in 1972. She retired in 1995, but found retirement too boring. Less than a year later, when the AHA, which had merged with the American Polled Hereford Association, needed someone to head the mailroom, Rosie came back on board. Today Rosie works part time, helping in the mailroom and in the records department. She is responsible for sending printed copies of certificates and herd inventory information to producers.

Rosie says the records department is a fun place to work. She has no plans for a second retirement. **HW**