



OUR NEWS

PINK BELT PROGRAM RAISING AWARENESS TO FIGHT CANCER

Cancer touches nearly every family, and ignorance of cancer spreads fear as fast as the malignant cells themselves. The best way to combat fear is with knowledge, and the Pink Belt program aimed to arm the mind with a better awareness and understanding. This past year, the American Martial Arts Institute, in conjunction with the American Cancer Society, designed and implemented the Pink Belt Program to raise awareness regarding cancer in our community.



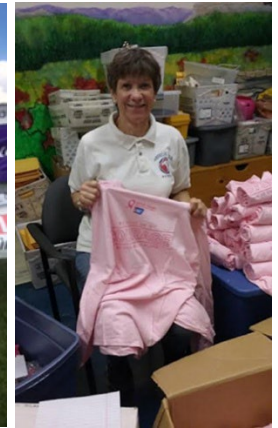
More than 125 children and adults earned their pink belts!

There were three methods to earn this unique rank.

First, children ages six to 17 could take a test, which was age specific. They could seek help from their parents, teachers, and family in answering the questions, and by completing and discussing the questions with their family, they became better informed. Parents were provided resources from the American Cancer Society, which helped them to answer the questions in a way they felt was appropriate for the age and needs of their child.

The **second** method was primarily for adults who could choose to become involved as a volunteer for one of the many events organized by the ACS.

The **third** method was to spread awareness independently through diverse options including writing an article for a work newsletter, handing out awareness literature, and others.



There was also an honorary pink belt for community organizations and businesses that got involved in the program, and a Public Service Announcement was filmed which aired throughout Central New York. Agencies who contacted the American Martial Arts Institute were provided with a free informational packet to assist them in implementing the program or collaborating on the children's tent for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.

First of Its Kind

This program is the first of its kind. Martial arts schools have done what so many other agencies have helped to do in the past—fund raise to make a donation to local or national agencies—through events such as kick-a-thons. This was the first program whose goal was to assist the core mission of cancer agencies, raising awareness. The Greater Mohawk Valley Area of the American Cancer Society, worked with Grandmaster Crandall to provide the resources and tests for the students, lists of all available events for volunteers, programs for local businesses such as 80% by 18, and more. Students who earned their pink belts shared what they have learned with their families. Knowledge is the key. Through communication and collaboration, together we can make a difference.



Students who earned their pink belt also received a custom-made certificate to hang in their home or office. The belts were earned from May 1 through September 15. The program culminated in all active students who had earned their pink belts participating in a martial arts demonstration at during the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on Sunday, October 15, 2017. Everyone wore their pink belts at this demonstration, which was donated by the American Martial Arts Institute to entertain everyone who participated in the walk.



[Watch the pink belt kata mass demonstration](#)



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

Watch a Batto-do demonstration from the event



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

Honorary Pink Belts



Local businesses and community agencies joined the fight! By partnering with the American Martial Arts Institute to support this program, many local agencies fulfilled the program's core mission - to raise awareness. Therefore, they earned Honorary Pink Belts and were presented with certificates recognizing their important contributions.

Some of these agencies supported the program by bringing it recognition, others helped to support the Children's Tent at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on October 15, 2017. This was the first year that the Children's Tent was held and it included animals from the Utica Zoo, a DJ, free food, Paw Patrol, games, and more. The tent was staffed by adult volunteers from the American Martial Arts Institute including professional doctors and educators.

Pink Belt Kata

Each month during the program a special class and ceremony night was held to recognize individuals who had earned their pink belts. At these classes the students learned the Pink Belt Kata. In traditional martial art systems such as the American Eagle Style, a kata is a series of moves to fight off multiple imaginary attackers, and it serves many essential roles for the individual student and school.

The pink belt kata's core concept was communication. Through communication we become more knowledgeable and we can pool our efforts to defeat cancer. The martial arts itself can serve as a universal language, creating common bonds among differing cultures. The kata incorporates American Sign Language, martial arts techniques, and verbal statements to communicate how together we can defeat cancer.

This kata was also filmed for the students to be able to practice. You can watch these reference videos to the left. The kata was part of a massive group performance at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on October 15 at 11 am at the Children's Tent.



[SEGMENT 1: Click Here](#)



[SEGMENT 2: Click Here](#)



[SEGMENT 3: Click Here](#)

As traditional martial artists we believe that we have a responsibility to make a positive difference in the lives of our families, friends, and community. We are proud of our students and the pink belt program.

Honorary Pink Belt Recipients

- WKTV - Katrina Smith and Alicia Dadario
- Obernesser Media - Chuck Obernesser
- American Cancer Society - Peter Cittadino and Robert Elinskas
- Thermal Petroleum - Mark Spiridigloizzi
- Brand It Imprints - Todd Martin
- Brownie's Inc
- The Gold Mine

PHOTOS FROM THE DEMONSTRATION AND THE CHILDREN'S TENT SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS INSTITUTE







The following students have earned their pink belts:

May 24

Grandmaster Crandall
Master Eric Stalloch
Master Nicholas Chuff
Gisella Stalloch
Dean Johnson
Mary Margaret Krukonis
Tim Cumings
Tim Stalloch
Marilyn Stalloch
Maria Quintal
Zachary Slade
Craig Budoff
Joey DeTraglia
Neil Grant
Victoria DeLuca
Ryan Byrne
Mia King
Skyler Stiles
Grace Merchant
Matthew Miscone
Dakota Fedor
Logan Martin
Peyton DeAngelo
Jacob Hart

June 23

Shana King
Alyse Lisi
Rebecca Daley
Evan Vulcano
Claire Vulcano
Sam Bull
Sophia Bull
AJ Case
David Daley
Henry Daley
Mr. John Freleigh
Master Cheryl Freleigh
Judy Faulkner
David Faulkner
Lucretia Burmaster
Alivia Franz
Dr. Peter Hotvedt
Master Moller
Mark Sanson
Kelly Sanson
Charlotte Sanson
James Sanson
Paul Lilley
Kyleigh Hoyle
Aiden Sheaffer
Roman Sheaffer
James Caccitore

July 27

Caden Salsberg
Brianna Howe
Brennan Lewin
Jax Simons
Lilliana VanEtten
Ryder Donley
Paul Lilley
Adriana LaBuz
Ethan LaBuz
Julia Mazzotta
Jessica Ritz
Anthony Ritz
Aiden O'Donnell
Maggie O'Donnell
Jon Pryor
Ed Salsberg
Anthony Rocco
Michael Manino
Caitlin Mazzotta
Matthew Strachen

August 24

CJ Hadlock
Allison Ellis
Jason Salatino
Mariena Vennette
Tim Martin
Matthew Michaels
Matthew Dibble
Isabella Salatino
Anna Ellis
TJ Labayewski
Ryan Payne
Robert Evans
Bill Walker
Sabrina Crandall
Sydney Labayewski
Ben Joseph
Dylan Fedor
Amanda Crandall
Aaron Lawlor
Mark Spiridigloizzi

[Click Here to See the
Pink Belt Program Packet](#)

ABOUT OUR ARCHIVES

The American Martial Arts Institute maintains a library at its main office with records of rank promotions, events, publications, media coverage, photographs, and videos. These are in the form of photo albums, copies of our publications, preserved news articles, and digital files such as videos and photographs from events in our history. In 1998, the American Martial Arts Institute launched its first website. Since then, the website has undergone many updates to keep up with changing technology. Many of our school's events and history are recorded on this website; however, not all testing results are maintained online (although testing records are maintained at our school). Events prior to 1998, are kept at our school library. This webpage documents some of our school's history.

For more information visit AMAI-EagleStyle.com.

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