Spring 2002

Caring & Sharing

Cancer Patient Care

509-456-0446 1507 East Sprague Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202 www.cancerpatientcare.org

9Th Annual Loreen Miller Memorial Bike Ride

Now that spring is here, it's time to dust off your bicycle for the 9th Annual Loreen Miller Bike Ride. Sunday, June 23 is the day to mark on your calendar for fun, fitness, food and festivities. Plans are underway for the most exciting Bike Ride in Cancer Patient Care's history. Three different rides are mapped for all riding abilities: the Family Ride, 12 miles, Metric Half-Century, 34.55 miles (50 K), and Metric Century, 64.8 miles, (100 K). This year's events include safety tips from the Washington State Patrol, a "Kids Ride" to be held in the parking lot, live music, a variety of different foods, and all kinds of fun.

The rides begin at the Mt. Spokane High School East Parking lot. The Family Ride continues through the beautiful scenery of the Peone Prairie. The Metric Half-Century extends to Greenbluff and back, and the Metric Century course will go to Reflection Lake. Teams are forming, so now is your chance to join with coworkers for a corporate team, a club team or with a bunch of friends to show your support for Cancer Patient Care in the community. Honor friends and loved ones who have been affected by cancer by purchasing and wearing honor patches during the ride. Raffle prizes include a new mountain bike donated by Two Wheel Transit ($500.00 value) and airline tickets from Southwest Airlines (valid for two to any destination in their service area, a $3,000.00 value). Registration forms are available at Cancer Patient Care's offices or online at www.cancerpatientcare.org. Call 456-0446 for additional information.



Pedaling for Cancer at the Kids Run Trade Show

From Those We Serve

David*, age 40, became a Cancer Patient Care client after his cancer surgery in the spring of 2000. While dealing with Melanoma cancer, he sought out resources in the community that would be able to help him and his family. With a wife and two children (ages 16 and 13) he needed some help going through this unexpected ordeal. David had been working at a steady job until surgery and impending treatments left him unable to continue his employment for an indefinite period of time. The resulting financial strain was an overwhelming burden. Cancer Patient Care was able to help David and his family with financial assistance for prescriptions, food vouchers, and utility bills along with nutritional food supplements and emotional support while battling the difficult side effects of chemotherapy.

David and his family were steadily doing better and better until early fall 2001. It was during this time that they were informed of the cancer spreading to his brain. Once again, Cancer Patient Care has been there to aid this family with financial assistance, but more importantly there was someone to talk to as they struggled to deal with the recurrence of cancer.

This family has repeatedly stated how grateful they are that an agency benefiting cancer patients and their families exists in this community. Without Cancer Patient Care, David and his family feel they would have lost everything to this disease.

* - *Name has been changed to protect identity of the client.*

Cancer Patient Care

Mission Statement:

To provide social service support for cancer patients and their families who have limited financial resources.

Cancer Patient Care
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Cancer Patient Care

The Community Safety Net



Heidi Vaughn, Executive Director

Have you ever wondered what would happen to the 300 + people Cancer Patient Care serves every month if suddenly we no longer existed? Where would cancer patients and their families go for the much-needed emotional support we provide? How would they manage to get to and from their cancer related medical appointments without our transportation services? What would the cancer patients do about the need for liquid food supplements they need to survive? Where would they turn for wheelchairs, hospital beds, walkers, commodes and other durable medical equipment? Would the cancer patients and their families with limited financial resources have to choose between prescription medication and paying the utility bill because there was no resource available to help with these issues?

Thankfully, Cancer Patient Care is available to cancer patients and their families who have limited financial resources. We are there to help with the immediate needs of those who have cancer right now. Because of your monetary support, Cancer Patient Care is able to ease some of the burden associated with a disease that never plays fair. Every dollar you donate helps take some of the weight off a family who is suffering. Thank you for making Cancer Patient Care and all of its services available to those who need it the most - those who are suffering right now.

The Second Annual Weiler Fun Run

Mark your calendars for June 1st, at 9:00 AM for the 2nd Annual Weiler Fun Run to honor the memory of Steve, Brian and Dale Weiler, all victims of cancer. Steve Weiler, the father of Dale and Brian, died of lung cancer in March 1997. The family was stricken again with the deaths of Brian, from colon cancer in September 2000, and Dale, from lung cancer in February 2001.

Patti Weiler learned of Cancer Patient Care during her husband Brian's illness and found the help she and her family needed. When Dale, Patti's brother-in-law was diagnosed with cancer, she knew to refer him to Cancer Patient Care for assistance.

Determined to keep their father's, grandfather's and uncle's memory alive, Colby and Shawn with their mother Patti created "The Weiler Fun Run." Last June over 300 people participated in the 3.3 mile run to benefit Cancer Patient Care.

East Valley School District is helping to sponsor the event, to be held at Otis Orchards Elementary School, E. 22000 Wellesley. Brian and Steve Weiler were employed with East Valley School District where Patti currently works with math students.

Entry forms are available at Otis Orchards Elementary; call 924-9823 for more information. Join the Weilers in this celebration and support a remarkable family's legacy.

Cancer Patient Care Salutes Bob and Lucille Reimer

In concurrence with the Inland Northwest Blood Center and the American Red Cross, Cancer Patient Care has nominated Bob and Lucille Reimer as "Volunteers of the Year". Bob and Lucille are faithful volunteers, helping with newsletter mailings, delivering Christmas gifts, organizing storage areas and creating special projects.

In addition to their other volunteer activities with the Red Cross and the Inland Northwest Blood Center, Bob and Lucille can be found at Cancer Patient Care, sharing their time and love. The Reimers are responsible for transforming Cancer Patient Care's Wig Room from a cold, gray closet into a warm and inviting space for women to select wigs, scarves and prostheses.

After the location move, remodeling funds ran out, leaving the Wig Room without carpet and with the wigs still in boxes. The Reimers bought carpet and had it installed. Then they washed and styled all the wigs. When they returned them, Bob and Lucille took the time to organize them by shade, enticing women to stop and look. Next, mirrors were mounted and helpers Carole Urquhart and Linda Platz volunteered their talent and supplies by stenciling the walls. Soon the room was bright and cheerful, with neatly arranged hats and scarves and even a privacy screen and vanity table, adding a little fun! The once dingy Wig Room is now proudly named the "Reimer Room" in honor of Bob and Lucille's leadership, Cancer Patient Care's guardian angel volunteers.

DID YOU KNOW

$50.00 Donation will buy a Grocery Voucher for one Family.

Special thanks to Rotary Club 21 and Daybreak Rotary

Rotary Club 21 of Spokane has generously elected to purchase signage for Cancer Patient Care's new location. The old reader board sign has been in place since the 1950's and was hard to read from the street. New signs prominently display the name "Cancer Patient Care" and also the logo. The covered handicapped parking is now easy to find with signs indicating where to turn. With bright new signs, Cancer Patient Care now has a more visible presence in the neighborhood.

Daybreak Rotary has purchased new portable display units for Cancer Patient Care. With this gift, we can more effectively tell our story when making presentations in the community. The new display units give Cancer Patient Care an updated and very professional image.

We offer sincere thanks to these Rotary Clubs for their commitment to the community and Cancer Patient Care.

A bequest is a gift that keeps giving.
Remember Cancer Patient Care in your will.

Cancer Care Northwest Lends a Helping Hand

Eight employees from Cancer Care Northwest generously spent an afternoon volunteering at Cancer Patient Care on Saturday, February 23rd.

The volunteer helpers were: Cherie Dellinger, Julie Skarsvog, Dana Rasberry, Nancy Butler, Nicole Webster, Amy Maine, Violet Wachter, and Suzanne Dinnen. Our trusty volunteers spent their time sorting through donated medical supplies such as trach kits, oxygen tubing, swabs, and feeding tube implements. They sorted, packaged, labeled and then stocked the items on the shelf so non-medical folks could easily find them. Ray Anderson, Cancer Patient Care social worker, reported that these gals were a great help, since no one in his organization "had an idea what some of these medical supplies were."

One of the volunteers reported that it was a lot of fun and made everyone feel like they were making a difference: "Cancer Patient Care does a lot for our patients, so it's nice to actually 'do' something for them," she said. "They really appreciate the money we give them, but sometimes it's better to help [with] what needs to be done." Thanks to all of you for unselfishly giving up your free time for this great cause!

CANCER CARE NORTHWEST

"Special thanks to Cancer Care Northwest for sponsoring this newsletter"

Mostly Merlot

Cancer Patient Care's annual "Mostly Merlot Winemaker's Dinner" was held on March 8th at the DoubleTree City Center. This year's elegant evening included participation from local Spokane wineries in addition to wineries from the Columbia Valley. Local chefs from Northern Quest Casino, Windows of the Seasons, Shutters Bistro, Lindaman's Gourmet-to-Go and Clinkerdagger created masterpiece courses with a wild game and berry theme. Major sponsors, Northern Quest, a Kalispel Casino and Mike Duvarney made the event possible.



Tim & and Cheryl Diaz

Twelve wineries in all joined over one hundred guests to celebrate and support the mission of Cancer Patient Care. Representatives from Arbor Crest, Knipprath Cellars, Mountain Dome, Townshend, Wyvern Cellars, Caterina, Chateau Ste. Michelle, Gordon Brothers, Kiona, L'Ecole No. 41, Wineglass Cellars and 3 Rivers wineries featured their top vintage wines. As soft jazz music from Gary Edighoffer and Jim Templeton set the mood, guests placed bids on silent auction items.

During dinner, the audience listened as one of Cancer Patient Care's client families, Tim and Cheryl Diaz, shared the moving story of their family's challenges during Tim's recent bout with cancer. Tim and Cheryl spoke from the heart, detailing how Cancer Patient Care's services offered them the help they so desperately needed. The Diaz' thanked those in attendance for their financial support of Cancer Patient Care and the vital services their contributions provide for cancer patients and families with no where else to turn.

BENEFIT BALL

Come dance, watch performances, Enjoy music and help support Cancer Patient Care.
Saturday, May 11, 2002
Presented by Dance City Spokane
506½ W. Sprague
Group Lesson Starts at 6:15 PM, General Dancing at 7:00 PM
Tickets: $13 pre-purchased,
$15 at the door.



Diary of a cancer patient

As I waited in Sacred Heart Hospital, the results of my blood work on my tumor markers were showing that my chemotherapy was having little effect on my cancer. It's scary to think that I was already undergoing the most difficulty regimen of chemotherapy that exists.

Six months ago I faced this same problem, practically lying on deaths door, but I rallied and pulled through like a real trooper until this latest episode. Is it really possible that I have now finally reached the end? A consultation with my doctor uncovered news I was not looking forward to hearing. I would be scheduled for surgery the next day to have my left testicle removed. I had been cautioned however, that the surgery was not a guarantee but only a possibility of prolonged life. It did not work.

I am a young man, 33 years old, with many goals yet to accomplish. So many things I have wanted to do for so long, and a number of obligations; especially to my 79 year old mother who moved from Connecticut to be near her son. She is the best mother I could have ever been blessed with, and at a time when she needs me most, I face the realization that I may not be here for her.

On March 23rd, I went to the hospital racked with pain in my left lung area. Where there had previously been no cancer, I was to find out that my left lung had been completely consumed by a tumor. I have been given only a few weeks to live.

I will be lucky to see Easter this year, let alone a few months. My time is very short and I can die any night now. I know that I will simply go to sleep and stop breathing.

I am indeed very grateful to all of those who have stood by me in my time of need, and that includes Cancer Patient Care. I ask that all of you who read this article support Cancer Patient Care and their efforts, as they are a very worthwhile organization. They display a lot of love and feelings for their clients in their everyday operations. I thank you all for your love and attention.

Editor's Note: This person was a very interesting and energetic individual, spending his last days helping those he felt were less fortunate than himself. He passed away on Easter Sunday and the staff of Cancer Patient Care will miss him very much. This article was the last thing he wrote before he died and he requested that it be printed.

Donations Received from January 1 – March 31, 2002

Donors $5,000.00 - $9,999.00
Northern Quest-A Kalispel Casino
Donors $1,000.00 - $4,999.00
Richard & Lucy Devleming, Richard Fink, Roger Heskett,
Pathology Associates Medical Laboratories, Rotary Club 21 of Spokane, Heidi Stanley, Sterling Savings Bank
Donors $500.00 - $999.00
Cancer Care Northwest, Captain Matt Carrell, Inland Imaging, LLC, Jeff Kuney, Jay & Pamela Penick, Sacred Heart Medical Center,
US Bank

Donors $100-$499
Dr. Stephen P. & Sheryl Anthony, Gregory Arger, Bank of Fairfield, Diane Burgher, Stan Burris, Judy Cazier, Kristin Coombs, Jim & Arlene Coulson, Corkery & Jones Benefits, Michelle Dane, Dawn, Donahoo, Mike Duvarney, ECHO (Employees Combined Humanitarian Organization), Tami Edwards, Sue Evans, Jim Fish, Cindy Green, Guardian Life Insurance, Rosemary Harnett, Gregg Held, Irene H. Horrigan, Carol Ichinose, Dawn Jamros, Dorene Johnson, Daniel Kegley, Carol Kettleson, Olivia P. Kissin, Kathleen Knight, Larry & Joan Knutson, James Lee, James V. Madnick, Jocelyn Martin, Thayne Mauch, Kyla Meredith, Martha Mock, Northland Credit Union, Northwest MedStar, Wade C. Owens, Jay & Pamela Penick, Cheryl A. Phillips, Potlatch Corporation, James Price, David J. Randolph, Anita Register, Calvin & Eileen Riemcke, Pam Sheldon, Nancy Skog, Lynn & Patrick Tennican, Steven Tevlin, Caryl Thomas, US Bank Employees, John & Beverly Wallace, Washington Trust Bank, WestCoast Hospitality Corporation, Terry Wick, Jerilyn Wilbanks
May Newsletter-up to $99
Able Claims Service, Inc., Doris Aiello, William Aitken, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1015, Judith & Robert Anderson, Kyle Anderson, Archer Daniels, Midland Company, Margie Arnzen, Maynard Arveson, Frances Baker, Julie Banks, Einar Barnhart, Susan Barrett, Helen Bartlett, Cathy & Patrick Bean, Teresa & Steven Benner, Julie Benton, Karen D. Bias, Dilys & Andrew Bingham,Bonnie Birchill, Maureen & Lloyd Bourne, Pat Bradley, Henrietta & Doug Brett, Stan Burris, Kelly Chapin, Darrelan Charbonneau, Elizabeth Christie, Charles E. Cinq-Mars, Jack Collier, Conifer Electric, Nola Covell, Pat Crocker-Fox, Laura Crooks, Ann Cunningham, Maxine Davenport, Gilbert A. & Mariann Davis, Sharon Dawson, Verna Dishneau, Dusty Dormaier, Evonne & Cal Edwards, Jacqueline & Lynn Erickson, Ray & Marilyn Erpenbach, Albert & Pauline Finley, Kelly L. Fish, Helen Kuehl Fox, Kevin M. Gallagher, Pamela Goforth, Margaret K. Grafmiller, Kelli Gray, Charlotte Greene, Mary Gruber, Half Moon Women's Club, Loretta & Garry Hall, Gail C. Harper, Sandra Harvey, Bonnie Hawker, Dorothy Ann & Greg Hawkins, Nadine Hawley, Rick & Joan Haynes, Alvorine & Harlan Heglar, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Helgeson, William & Irene Hiatt, Janice Hoffard, Paul Hook, Ron Hubbard, David L. Huotari, Joyce Iriye, Barbara Johnson, Berdeena Johnson, Mike & Wendy Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Judd, Karen Kane, Linda Karg, Kazumi Kasuga, Frank & Donna Kendall, Billie & Robert Kienel, Floyd & Beverly Klein, Betty J. Konrad, Harold Kremer, Florence Kryns, Patricia Lacroix, Toni Lee, Marjorie Linderer, Mary Lindstrom, Einer & Florence Loreen, Charles W. Lust, Carol Lutz, Gary & Frances Lynch, Leah Lynch, Dixie Malmoe, Lenore McDonald, Theresa L. McKay, Shirley Melatini, Verla & Don Meyer, Norman & Kathryn Miller, Mildred Montague, Carole A Montgomery, Dolores Mosey, Matt Munn, Estelle Naccarato, Northwest Treasure Hunter's Club, Randy O'Neall, James Olson, Wade C. Owens, Gordon Peckham, Ryan Peery, Allen J. & Eleanor Peterson, Juanita Peterson, David R. & Rose Pickering, Emma Pike, Ruth L.Pobanz, Gloria & Ronald Prewitt, Marjorie & Patrick Probst, Dolores E. Randolph, Myrl & Carroll Roberts, Duane Ward & Betty Robinson, Frank Rotondo, Barbara Rubin, Antoinette Russell, Jacqueline & Ward Sandberg, Patrick Saunders, Mary & Robert Schermerhorn, Bonnie Schroeder, George Sicilia, Thomas Sides, Irene Simon, Marilyn & Larry Simon, Edith Smith, Bryan Stauffer, Fern & Frederick Stauffer, Kay & Mikel Stevenson, Beryl Stoneman, Tina Stratton, Mike Surdock, Valeta Sweet, Elena Tagbo, Howard & Rae Mary Thompson, Leoma R. Tibbetts, Ann Tichy, Fran Tilque, Anthony Travis, Sandra Ulver, Shirlanda Vasquez, Marjorie & Billy Dale Vaughan, Heidi Vaughn, Jennifer Vincent, Mary J. Watt, Susan F. Weber, Denny & Jonita Weitkamp, Marjorie J. & Stewart Welsh, Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church, Eileen L. Wice, Stephanie Wideman, Chadwick Willard, Carol A. Wilson, Zamatha Wilson, Carolyn & Patrick Young, Zinnia Zwainz

We apologize for any omitted or misspelled names

MEMORIALS

Terry Anderson, John Fred Barnes, Frances Barnhart, Patricia Beard, Chleo Burris, Maynard Cary, Esther Colvin, William M. "Billy" Dalgarn, Patti A. Fowler, Sue Frazier, Donald Gibler, Charles Gilbreth, Rex Goodson, Cindy Grant, Frank Greene, Ella Janssen, Truit Jones, Victor Julian, Yoshiko Kasuga, Dan Mahoney, Mitzie Mauch, Ruth D. Morris, George Nicoles, Helen Peckham, Cory Lee Peterson, Melba Peterson, Kathleen Richard, Wilma Riddle, Lee Rocky, June Shreve, Lauralee Sicilia, Vincent "Smitty" Smith, Lois Smith, Elizabeth Stack, Leonard & Hazel Tennican, Lester Tibbetts, Gale VanHover, Lamphone Vongsady, Charles Wick, Robin Wittwer, Louie Wohlsein, Frances Young, Robert Zwainz

HONORS

In honor of all cancer patients

Cars for Charity

Timothy Barber, David Bestrom, Leonard Broderson, June Canaday, Mike Cannon, Susan Dewey, Steven Drown, Stanley Duda, Jeffrey Duncan, Steven Duvall, Drusilla Edwards, Ruth Evans, Max Faller, Kevin Fortney, Rebekah Gearhardt, Nancy Giesen, Ricky Hasbrouck, Gerard Honeycutt, William Honeycutt, Evelyn Knight, Kathleen Laird, Thayne Mauch, Maureen Mitchell, Darren Mode, Kathryn Parry, Michael Rinehart, Jose Rosado, Paul Sands, Anna Shoemaker, Stew Simpson, Kenneth Skaer, Kenneth Smith, Roger Smith, Robert Stokes, Brian Strong, Harry Tolliver, W & C Enterprises, Linda Waddell, Rodney Wells, Christopher Woods, Walter Wrench, Mildred Yarbrough, Patrick Young

Be sure to tune in to Cancer Patient Care's local access television program! AT&T Broadband, with the help of volunteers, airs the Cancer Patient Care "Living With Cancer" television shows, Wednesday evenings at 8:00 PM on cable channel 14. If you are interested in working on the crew, contact Carol Ann Burt at AT&T Broadband, 484-4931 ext. 2290.

In keeping with our mission of providing services to cancer patients and their families in our community, the social work staff would like to ask newsletter readers for their input regarding the need for additional services.

Two areas that we are interested in are support group services and informational topics for our community service television programming. We would like to hear from you with suggestions for educational programs or the need for general information programs that we might produce. In addition,we would like to know from our readers the need for specific support groups that we could organize for patients and/or families.

We always welcome your suggestions regarding expanded services. Please voice your suggestions via telephone 509-456-0446, E-mail info@cancerpatientcare.org, or FAX 509-456-0459.

Wish List

Postage stamps, Hanging File Folders,Large envelopes (10"x13"),8 1/2" x 11" paper, White-out, Volunteers, Wig heads, Zip disks



In Kind Donations

Advantage Marketing, Jason Allenberg, Arbor Crest Wine Cellars, Audrey's Boutique, Richard Boge, Irma Busby, Butterfly Garden, Cameo Catering, Catered Ambiance, Catered for You, Caterina Winery, Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery, Costco, Curtis Clark, Clinkerdagger, Cyrus O'Leary's, Dorothy DeGon, Gary Edighoffer, Fery's Catering, Delores Floyd, Lisa Gardner, Kathy Gibbons, Gordon Brothers Winery, Great Scott Pub & Grill, Cindy Green, Harriet & Kenneth Hickey, Inland Northwest Dairies, Italian Kitchen, John Jacobsen, Max Johnston, Mary Jones, Kershaw's, Inc., Kiona Winery, Knipprath Cellars, l'Ecole No. 41 Winery, Lindaman's, Gourmet-to-Go, Dominic Lindauer, Longhorn Barbecue, Cynthia Mathis, Ed Mattfeld, CC McCormick, Mountain Dome Winery, Mr. Tux, Northern Quest Casino, Perkins, Peters & Sons, Curtis Reed, Safeway Mission & Hamilton, Safeway NW Blvd. & Ash, Gail Schmehl, Shutter's Bistro, Shirley & Harold Skinner, Rita Snow, Snyder's Bakery, Spokane South Rotary Club, Stacey Stenseth, Starburst Enterprizes, Jim Templeton, 3 Rivers Winery, Tony Roma's, Townshend Winery, University Catering, URM, Michael Vaughn, WestCoast River Inn, Crystal Windishar, Windows of the Seasons, Wineglass Cellars, Wyvern Cellars, Yoke's