



Benedictine

HEALTH FOUNDATION

Supporting the Benedictine Spirit of Compassionate Care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bike for Cancer Care to Benefit Local Cancer Patients

Kingston, N.Y. – September 3, 2014 – On September 21, over 400 cyclists of all ages, from all areas of New York State and beyond, will ride in the **11th annual Bike for Cancer Care** to raise money for Mid-Hudson Valley residents who are undergoing cancer treatment and struggling financially. The Ride is the main fundraising event for the Benedictine Health Foundation's **Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund**.

“The Fund is unique,” stated Barbara Klassen, Executive Director of the Foundation. “We provide assistance in the form of gift cards to cancer patients while in treatment for the purchase of nutritious food at Hannaford Supermarkets, and also for fuel at Stewart’s Shops so they have the ability to access treatment. There is an overwhelming need for this type of assistance, this year we will distribute just over \$100,000, a 10% increase over 2013. Each patient can apply to receive \$500 annually. Since 2005, we have assisted over 1000 patients and have distributed over \$550,000. Many patients are unable to work due to rigorous treatments, and we are receiving more requests from parents that leave their job to take care of their children diagnosed with cancer. It is an honor to help such courageous people through a difficult time.”

The Bike for Cancer Care raised net proceeds of just over \$100,000 last year. The goal for 2014 is \$125,000, which Klassen feels they will exceed due to the generosity of their sponsors. River Radiology has been a Platinum Sponsor for many years. “River Radiology is pleased to have the opportunity to give back to our patients through the Foundation’s tremendously effective Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund. Their work in supporting the life necessities of patients undergoing arduous cancer regimens is highly commendable, answering the needs that no other organization does. We hope they grow and prosper in this very important work,” stated Dr. Bruce Moor, MD, founding member of River Radiology.

The event takes place at Dietz Stadium in Kingston. Families and riders of all skill levels turn out to enjoy the day. The event offers a Bike Rodeo for youth, a fun Round Robin Ride inside Dietz Stadium for families, and a 12-, 25- and 50-mile ride throughout Ulster County. Breakfast, refreshments at rest stops, and lunch are provided by Hannaford Supermarkets. Following the last ride around noon, there is an awards celebration and live entertainment with everyone's favorite, ice cream, provided by Gillette Creamery.

Dan Gruner, the event chair, said the ride and Fund were founded in memory of his mother, Rosemary, who passed away after a battle with cancer in 2003. "On behalf of the Gruner, Arsenault and DiDonna families, I would like to extend our deep gratitude to everyone that comes out to support this grassroots, community event. Each year we strive to raise more money, because the more we raise enables us to help even more families fighting cancer in our community," Gruner said.

Kristin Flynn, a recipient of the fund, extended her thanks for the gift cards she received for fuel. "The cards helped me with all the extra mileage costs incurred travelling to daily treatments for breast cancer. I never imagined that I would be a recipient of this generous Fund. Two years ago I was happily standing at the bike registration handing in pledge money that I had raised for the 50 mile ride. Little did I know that in the near future I would be coming to the Fund for assistance; I thank them for being there. I have been in training and plan to ride again this year to raise money for others that need support."

For further information on the Bike for Cancer Care, Sunday, September 21, and the Benedictine Health Foundation's Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund, please visit: www.bikeforcancercare.org or call the Benedictine Health Foundation at (845) 334-3017.

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About the Fund

In partnership with the Gruner family, the Benedictine Health Foundation established the **Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund** in 2004 to aid in the treatment, care, and support of cancer patients in financial need. The Fund provides assistance to eligible patients while in treatment who are residents of Ulster County regardless of the facility where they receive treatment, and residents of neighboring Mid-Hudson Valley Counties who receive treatment within Ulster County. The fund has assisted over 1000 patients and their families by providing gift cards to purchase nutritious food at Hannaford Supermarkets and/or fuel cards to Stewart's Shops so that patients may access treatment.

About Benedictine Health Foundation

The Mission of the Benedictine Health Foundation is to raise and distribute resources to support quality and compassionate health care that improves the physical, psychological, and spiritual well being of those who are vulnerable and underserved in Ulster County. The Foundation has supported health care programs and services in Ulster County since 1977. For further information, contact Barbara Klassen, Executive Director, at (845) 334-3186.

