



Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund

AT BENEDICTINE HOSPITAL
A helping hand for cancer patients and their families
2012

Letter from The Gruner Families

In early 2012, the Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund surpassed providing financial support to over 900 cancer patients and their families since its inception. This is an accomplishment our family is very proud of, and we certainly realize that this would not have been possible without your generosity.

Our goal has always been and continues to be to assist every cancer patient who needs help in our community. Until this year, we have never faced the challenge of meeting the demand brought forth to us, nor have we ever had to ask a patient to wait for assistance. As you may well surmise, there seems to be a direct correlation between rising fuel prices and the requests we receive. Thus, our requests for assistance are at an all-time high. In fact, we are on pace to deliver over \$84,000 in support this year.

While we serve as the financial vehicle to deliver assistance, it is the social workers and staff from Benedictine Hospital and the Thomas A. Dee Cancer Center who work on the front

lines to connect cancer patients with our resources. We felt it was important that you hear their perspective this year as they provide a keen insight as to how our Fund impacts patients from the community.

What you are about to read would not be possible without the remarkable success of the Bike for Cancer Care event, which in 2011 raised over \$100,000 for the first time. We are inspired by the stories written in this newsletter and remain committed more than ever to support those within our community who are battling cancer. We certainly hope you, too, will be inspired by their words, and will continue to support our efforts and commitment.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Daniel J. Gruner

On behalf of the Arsenault, DiDonna, and Gruner Families.



Address Correction Requested

Benedictine Health Foundation
105 Mary's Avenue
Kingston N.Y. 12401



Bike for Cancer Care 2012

Bike FOR Cancer Care
A helping hand for cancer patients and their families

9th Annual Bike for Cancer Care Sunday, September 16, 2012

The Benedictine Health Foundation will hold the *9th Annual Bike for Cancer Care* on Sunday, September 16th to benefit the Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund.

The bike ride will start and finish at Dietz Stadium in Kingston, and will feature a bike rodeo for youth, a family ride, and a 25- and 50-mile route for the more avid cyclist. The event ends with live music, a BBQ lunch and awards ceremony. Last year over 450 riders participated and 125 volunteers were on hand to help out - this is truly a community event.

We need your support! If you would like to volunteer, ride, or sponsor this event, please contact the Foundation office at (845) 334-3017 or go online to: www.bikeforcancer.org



The Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund

Working in partnership with the Gruner Family, the Benedictine Health Foundation established this Fund in 2004 to provide for individuals who are facing financial challenges while receiving cancer treatment.

Because of the Gruner family's efforts and the overwhelming generosity of our community, over 900 cancer patients and their families have benefited from this Fund.

Mission Statement

The Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund ("the Fund") strives to aid in the treatment, care, and support of cancer patients in need. The Fund provides financial assistance for residents of Ulster County, regardless of the facility or location they currently receive cancer treatment from, and also for residents of neighboring Hudson Valley counties who are receiving cancer treatment from a facility within Ulster County. The Fund currently provides \$500 in non-cash assistance annually in the form of grocery and/or fuel gift cards. Patients who meet the financial guidelines (annual household income of less than \$50,000 for families or \$35,000 for single), and are receiving treatment (such as radiation or chemotherapy) for a current cancer diagnosis are eligible to apply.

For further information or to request an application, please contact the Oncology Support Program at (845) 339-2071 or the Benedictine Health Foundation at (845) 334-3061. To learn more about the Fund and how you can help, please visit us at: www.bikeforcancer.org

What's Needed During Hard Times Relief - Comfort - Hope

Dear Community of Riders and Donors,

Every day at the Oncology Support Program we are struck by how cancer can turn a person's life upside down in a flash. People diagnosed with cancer are uncertain about their prognosis, wonder what to tell their children and loved ones; and all too often, are unsure of how to deal with the financial burden that cancer brings. People who were managing just fine before their diagnosis often face a loss of income coupled with rising medical expenses and costs of daily living.

As Social Workers and Mental Health Professionals working with cancer patients, our own hearts ache when we witness hardworking people struggling to deal with so many challenging emotions and circumstances. What a gift it is for us to be able to lend a helping hand by offering tangible support. There are many members of our community who live in outlying areas and drive for miles to make it to their medical appointments. Access to the Gruner gift cards reduces their financial stress by helping them put gas in their cars and food on their tables.

We can't thank the Gruner family enough for making our jobs a bit easier and lifting our hearts as we carry on our work. As we offer support to those touched by cancer, we are grateful and proud to be connected to such a remarkable local program. The people we serve express their heartfelt gratitude time and again. There are so many who appreciate the steadfast devotion of the Gruner family and the ongoing support of all of you who support the Gruner Bike Ride. As we distribute the food and gas cards, we are also sending a message of kindness, comfort, and hope. We look forward to carrying on that message when we join you, along with your friends and families, at this year's Bike Ride Event. Let's make sure that this Fund benefits our community for years to come!

Ellen Marshall MS., LCSW

Director of the Oncology Support Program
Benedictine Hospital



BENEDICTINE
HEALTH FOUNDATION
Celebrating 35 Years 1977 - 2012

Why We Help...

"In my role at Benedictine Hospital, I have the distinct honor of helping the Health Foundation distribute the Gruner Fund gift card assistance directly to cancer patients or their family members.

At a time when the patient is worried about their diagnosis, treatment, and doctors' appointments, the Gruner Fund offers patients and their families help with travel and food expenses.

When I distribute the Hannaford gift cards, I always say, *go and treat yourself to something delicious.*

I have heard many personal stories and have either laughed or cried along with each recipient. To see the tears and gratitude in their eyes when they receive these gift cards is beyond words.

I thank the Gruner family and the Benedictine Health Foundation for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful program. It is truly an example of what *caring for the community* is all about."

Diane Yetter
Cashier, Benedictine Hospital



Pat Ernenwein and Diane Yetter

"I have been working as the Case Manager for Ulster Radiation and Oncology at the Thomas A. Dee Cancer Center at Benedictine Hospital for exactly six years. It is a wonderful, rewarding job, and the greatest satisfaction I get is from giving our patients a hand with the issues in their lives, which may or may not be directly related to their cancer diagnosis. Older patients who live on fixed incomes often find it a burden to add on the extra costs of daily treatment, especially if they live up to an hour away. Cancer patients in general need nutritious and well-balanced diets to complement their treatments, and to help their healing process and their general health. Many patients are undergoing Radiation and Chemotherapy simultaneously and are depleted and weakened.

Fortunately for me, early on in my employment, I found out about the availability of the Gruner Fund. As part of my process, I ask about their financial situation and the length of their commute. Approximately 25% of my patients are eligible for and in need of some assistance at this most difficult time, and I waste no time in helping them with the application. The response is overwhelming to me. I have been called an angel, a lifesaver, the light at the end of the tunnel, and a miracle worker; but it is not me. I am only the conduit for these patients. The true hero is the Fund, and those who are the support staff and make it happen in such a timely and needed manner. I feel so fortunate that I have this Fund available to me. We are all truly blessed to be the recipients of the generosity and spirit of the Gruner Family."

- Pat Ernenwein

Testimonial..

"When I was undergoing treatment for esophageal cancer, I could only eat from my peg tube. Once my treatment was completed and was able to eat again, I studied up on what foods would work best to help with my recovery. Of course, I found that those foods were expensive, and I live on a limited income. I was able to qualify for Gruner Fund assistance and received Hannaford gift cards. I was then able to afford the nutritious and healthy food needed, and was also able to spread out using the gift cards over a year and ate well the whole time. I am so grateful to the Gruner Fund and all those associated with it because I truly feel that the better food I am able to buy is helping in my recovery from cancer."

- John Pierz