

Geisinger - Community Medical Center • Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Henry Cancer Center • Mid-Valley Hospital • Moses Taylor Hospital
Regional Hospital of Scranton • Special Care Hospital • Tyler Memorial Hospital • Wayne Memorial Health System • Wilkes-Barre General Hospital

Spirit of Hope Celebration Raises Over \$45,000!

Members of the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute Board of Ambassadors recently met for a wrap up discussion of the Spirit of Hope Celebration they hosted in November to benefit the Cancer Institute Patient Navigation Program. After reviewing all the different aspects of the event, the group determined that their efforts had generated over \$45,000 to help low income individuals obtain recommended cancer screenings!

The First Annual Spirit of Hope Celebration took place on November 2, 2012 at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs. Approximately 200 guests enjoyed a wide array of treats while bidding on exciting silent auction prizes and listening to music by Tony Vergnetti & Nick Driscoll. Jeff D'Angelo Design Group added to the fun atmosphere through their donation of colorful decorations.

The Cancer Institute is grateful to the Board of Ambassadors for their support and to all the community organizations and individuals that sponsored the event! The proceeds will help the Cancer Institute Patient Navigation program to continue helping local un/underinsured individuals overcome barriers that they face to getting potentially life-saving cancer screenings.



Tony Vergnetti and Nick Driscoll provide entertainment during the Spirit of Hope Celebration at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs in November.

Save the Date: March 21, 2013

2013 Shirt Design



10th Anniversary

c.a.s.u.a.l. SM

Colon cancer Awareness Saves Unlimited Adult Lives

In memory of helen phillips

For more information, or to register as a team captain, visit www.cancernepa.org or call 1-800-424-6724.

Michael Rumensky – Story of Survivorship

Everyone needs a hero, and whether you are young or old it is good to have someone to look up to and admire. I am my parents' HERO, not because I wanted to be, but because of what I survived as a child and the person I became today.

I don't remember much of my illness, since I was 14 months old when I was diagnosed with Juvenile Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (JCML). Protocol required that I have total body radiation, chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. I was added to the bone marrow transplant donor search and a match (a young man from Dartmouth College) was found a few weeks later. I was ready for my bone marrow transplant on January 6, 1994. It seems ironic that on Russian Christmas Eve I would receive the gift of bone marrow from a complete stranger and begin my life all over again. My HERO is my bone marrow donor, Jay.

My treatment was successful. I did have some minor complications and setbacks, but I was the first Bone Marrow Transplant for JCML that Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) ever did. Years passed and I returned to CHOP for weekly, then monthly, then yearly checkups all through elementary school. Middle school was just around the corner when I re-wrote the medical journals again!

After a Bone Marrow Transplant, if you pass 100 days you are considered to be rejection free,

however I passed almost 12 years before my body started to reject the bone marrow. I still have bouts with Graft Vs Host Disease, but I am a survivor. Other small setbacks occurred in high school when secondary tumors were turning the bones in my legs and I had to have two surgeries to straighten the curvature.



Michael Rumensky is a 20-year cancer survivor.

Besides my bone marrow donor, I have many other heroes that were there for me along the way. I am very thankful for my family, friends, people who work and volunteer at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, the nurses and doctors at CHOP, and Dr. Stanley Blondek and his staff at Physicians Health Alliance.

My advice to others is to never stop looking up to your personal hero. Today I am 21-years-old with heroes in every aspect of my life. Whether you are a survivor or a caregiver, remember you are a hero to someone.

Cancer Institute Releases Report on Local Cancer Rates

The Cancer Institute is pleased to announce the release of "Cancer in Northeastern Pennsylvania: Incidence and Mortality of Common Cancers." This report was compiled by Dr. Samuel Lesko, Cancer Institute Director of Research/Medical Director.

As an exclusively local research report, the information is directed to Northeastern Pennsylvania residents, health professionals, and government leaders. In addition to other information, the report details several cancer types for which this region has a higher than expected incidence. In particular, tobacco associated cancers and gynecologic cancers.

New to the report this year is an analysis of

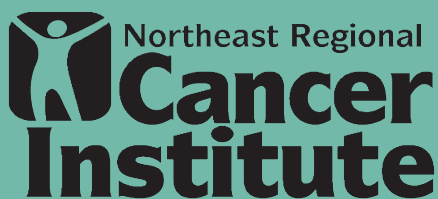
trends in cancer incidence over the past ten years. Notable findings include significant increases in the incidence rates among women, especially in lung and thyroid cancer.

The goal in sharing this data is to raise awareness across the community; to promote collaborative efforts to prevent select cancers through healthy lifestyle choices and adherence to proper screening guidelines; and to provide healthcare professionals with a foundation for critical planning and investment in treatment services.

A full copy of the report can be found at www.cancernepa.org.

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