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"Tiles: From Tears to Triumph" Features Artwork by Survivors, Loved Ones

From the day of diagnosis, to the relief of remission, every cancer survivor experiences a unique journey of highs and lows, tears and triumphs. What would a single image capturing that experience look like?

On November 11, 2010, the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute will display the answer to this question with the unveiling of a one-of-a-kind art display featuring replications of ceramic tiles painted by local cancer survivors, their friends, families, and caregivers. With an atmosphere of hope and celebration, the new display will make its debut at "Tiles: From Tears to Triumph," a community gathering at John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation, Wilkes-Barre.

Shawn Murphy and Rebecca Ruckno, Co-Chairs of the volunteer planning committee for the event, announce that it will run from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., and feature stories of survivorship, live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and drinks. The event is open to the public and tickets are \$50. All proceeds from the event will support Cancer Institute education programming and research to ease the burden of cancer in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

To register for the event, or for more information, please call the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute at (570) 970-6543 in Wilkes-Barre or (570) 941-7984 in Scranton or visit www.cancernepa.org.



Pictured are members of the volunteer planning committee for "Tiles: From Tears to Triumph" (left to right): Jill Kryston; Anna Cervenak; Rebecca Ruckno, Committee Co-Chair; Mary Erwine; Susan Kolesar; Cynthia Glawe Mailloux; and Rachel Borgna, Zebra Communications at Wilkes University. Not pictured are Shawn Murphy, Committee Co-Chair; Elly Miller; Pat Finan Castellano; Ruthann Taylor; Sherry Huntzinger; and Janet Flack.

Helene Skopect – Story of Survivorship

When Helene Skopect was diagnosed with breast cancer, her family and friends were there for her every step of the way. Thankfully, Helene got through her battle and felt that the support from her loved ones was the best medicine she could have had. After her own fight was won, Helene decided to make it her priority to be there for others, even strangers, going through the same experience. Now, a proud survivor of six years, she has helped brighten the day of hundreds of individuals undergoing treatment, with the help of some special friends.

Helene is a dog handler for a not-for-profit organization called Pleasure of Your Company Therapy Dogs, Inc. Through the organization, Helene regularly visits a variety of care facilities with her dogs to brighten the day of those with cancer and other illnesses.

This past June, Helene and several of her fellow dog handlers were on-hand with their four-legged friends at the Northeast Regional Cancer

Institute 18th Annual Cancer Survivors Celebration. The event, which provides a free day of fun, food and information for cancer survivors and their loved ones and had an approximate attendance of



Helene Skopect, a six-year survivor, poses with one of her therapy dogs, Karlie.

1400 people, made a huge impact on Helene.

“Survivors Celebration really touched me. People kept coming up to me and telling me stories about how when they were going through cancer treatment, they remembered being visited by therapy dogs and how much it brightened their day. It was really nice to hear that,” says Helene.

Student Service Project Opportunities Available at Cancer Institute

Do you know a student who is passionate about cancer awareness and interested in completing a service project?

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute currently has service project/volunteer opportunities available for interested individuals. These ideas range from assisting with education programs and mailings, to planning your own awareness event. One specific project that is perfect for students involves the Cancer Institute annual event C.A.S.U.A.L. (Colon cancer Awareness Saves Unlimited Adult Lives) Day.

C.A.S.U.A.L. Day is a program where participants dress C.A.S.U.A.L. while wearing a pin and/or t-shirt to promote colon cancer screening and early detection. This effort is especially important since colorectal cancers are one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers in Northeast

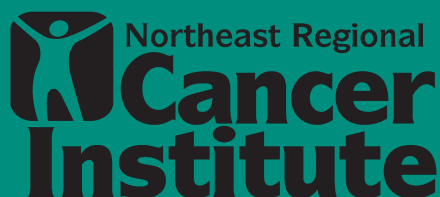
Pennsylvania.

In the past several years, students from area school districts have completed their senior projects in conjunction with the Cancer Institute and have learned initiative and responsibility, while helping to moderate the effects of a disease that affects thousands of people in Northeastern Pennsylvania each year. The C.A.S.U.A.L. day project especially works well for students because it provides an easy to follow project structure, but still allows room for creativity.

For more information about our service projects, contact the Cancer Institute at 1-800-424-6724 or visit www.cancernepa.org in mid-November, where you will even be able to download posters and other materials for your project.

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