

Insights

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Join Us for the 19th Annual Cancer Survivors Celebration!

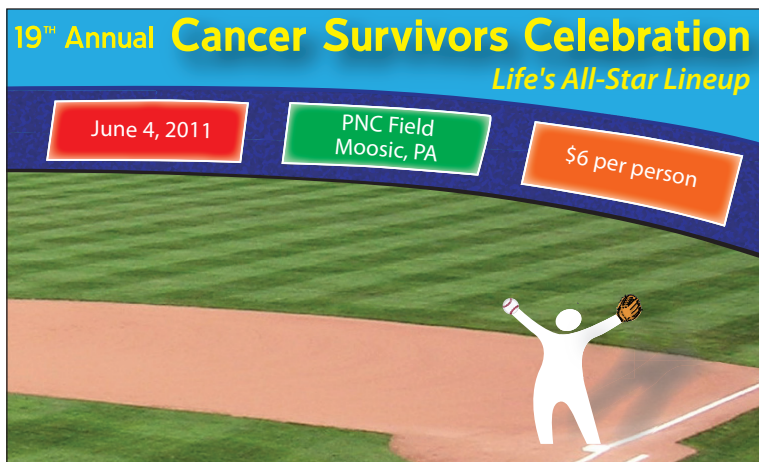
Cancer survivors and caregivers from northeastern Pennsylvania are invited to register for the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute 19th Annual *Cancer Survivors Celebration* on Saturday, June 4th.

This year's Celebration will be held in conjunction with a Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees baseball game at PNC Field in Moosic. The cost of the event is \$6 per person and the price will include participation in pre-game activities, admission to the game, and an all-you-can-eat food wristband. Tickets are limited, so individuals must purchase their tickets ahead of time by calling the Yankees at 570-969-2255 prior to May 28th. Tickets at this reduced rate are intended for cancer survivors, their families, and caregivers only and will NOT be available on the day of the event.

Jill Evans Kryston and Michael Costello, Cancer Survivors Celebration Committee Co-Chairs, are pleased to announce the event theme, *Life's All-Star Line-up!* The highlight of the baseball-themed event will be on-field recognition of cancer survivors and caregivers prior to the game. If you would like to participate, please arrive between 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Cancer Institute tent near the main entrance to the stadium. All participants are encouraged to visit the Cancer Institute tent to sign the "Survivors Banner," receive a survivor or caregiver pin, and pick up other information. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. and seating in the stadium begins at 6 p.m.

Another new feature of the event this year will be the addition of a "Virtual Display Booth" online information gallery. This website will feature information on local cancer resources provided by area organizations and will take the place of the staffed resource booths that were set up at the event in past years. Anyone who visits the site to view the information will also be able to enter to win several raffle prizes. The online gallery can be accessed starting on June 4th from the Cancer Institute website (www.cancernepa.org).

Survivors Celebration t-shirts will be on sale prior to June 4th, but not at the event. To purchase a shirt, 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.



2011 Survivors Celebration Planning Committee

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Jill Evans Kryston – Story of Survivorship

It's an honor to co-chair this year's Cancer Survivors Celebration. My connection to cancer began in August, 2005. While attending my cousin's funeral it dawned on me that something serious may be wrong. My cousin died of ovarian cancer, but was first treated for irritable bowel syndrome. Coincidentally, I had begun to experience irritable bowel symptoms during that summer.

I wasted no time in scheduling an overdue doctor appointment and was quickly diagnosed with the "silent disease" of ovarian cancer at age 51. After a radical hysterectomy I began a course of chemotherapy which ended in a full remission.

Cancer runs deep through my family and to date, I'm the only member who's survived. At age 13, I watched my 38 year old mother suffer and die from breast and abdominal cancer which we now believe was ovarian. Moreover, she lost her young mother through a similar scenario. Subsequently, other family members died before their time of familial cancers. It was no wonder that I was the perfect candidate for genetic testing.

The decision to pursue genetic counseling and testing was prompted by the helpless feeling of watching many family members perish from this horrific disease. A mother of three, my thoughts centered on the idea that, for the first time, our family would have choices and opportunities for

prevention never before available to them.

The genetic test showed I have a hereditary mutation known as BRCA 2.

Although this places me at an increased risk for breast cancer, hormone therapies are available for protection as well as breast MRIs for surveillance.

The story doesn't end just yet. In 2009 I experienced a recurrence which was successfully retreated.

As a two-time survivor, I encourage a positive outlook and offer hope to all those running this race. Additionally, I salute the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute for their continual support and dedication to the cancer community in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. They not only stand with us, but they see us through our journey. Many thanks and gratitude for their help!



Jill Evans Kryston is a two-time cancer survivor and Co-Chair of the 19th Annual Cancer Survivors Celebration.

5th Annual Nancy McCormick Memorial Volleyball Tournament

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is proud to again support the 5th Annual Nancy McCormick Memorial Volleyball Tournament. The event will be held on May 28th at 9 AM at Dunmore High School, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Cancer Institute.

This tournament was set up to honor the memory of Nancy McDonald McCormick. Nancy was an educator in the Scranton/Dunmore area and played recreational volleyball for many years.

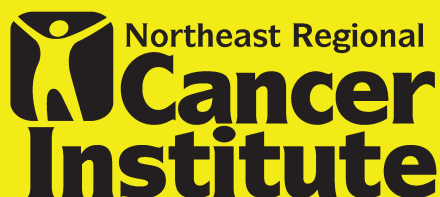
Although her life was cut short by colon cancer, her memory lives on in all whose lives she touched.

The tournament is open to any co-ed team of 6 players or more. Teams are asked to register by May 25th as space is limited. Cost per team is \$75 before May 14th and \$85 afterwards.

For more information, or to register, contact nancymccormickmemorial@gmail.com or call 343-9715.

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