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Cancer patients, supporters invited to Tea for Hope

Vaishali Patel, the Union-Recorder

MILLEDGEVILLE —

Georgia Cancer Support (GCS) is hosting its annual Tea for Hope event to provide some relief and faith and make a difference in the lives of people battling cancer in the middle Georgia area.

“We’re asking for the help of the entire community to come out and support us. It’s all of our responsibility to help those in need and with community support, we’re able to grow and continue filling those needs,” said Robbie White, founder of GCS and a colon cancer survivor. “This is my passion. myself and so many cancer patients are so blessed, but there are cancer patients out there that feel like they are not loved or have the help they need. They need to have hope and faith in Jesus and know we are here to help because He has done so much for us.”

With the help of Bless You Sister, Sophia Peavy and Nita Chatham, this year’s English garden tea party is slated at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at the home of Trish Ann at Standing Rocks Farm located at 2653 Ga. Hwy 49 in Haddock.

“Last year, we were able to raise \$2,400 and the money went to four cancer patients that were part of the Faith Hope & Love Cancer Support Group,” White said. “This year, the money will benefit Georgia Cancer Support, which has a lot of cancer patients instead of designating it to individuals. We would love to raise \$3,000; that would float us for a couple of months.”

During the late luncheon, breast cancer survivor Pam Pullie of Macon will be guest speaker to share her story about fighting the deadly disease while attendees enjoy scones, pimento cheese, chicken salad, croissants and desserts. Vendors will be set up to sell items from their businesses and various prizes will be available for bid during a silent auction, including gift certificates to area restaurants and salons, jewelry, spa packages, gift baskets and more.

“We will give a door prize for the best hat to a regular person and to a cancer patient. We also have benches for businesses to sponsor. We have four left for \$100 each and it will look like a billboard to be given away as door prizes,” White said. “This is a wonderful event for women and children. Everyone is still talking about the wonderful time they had last year.”

Of the 150 tickets for sale, 70 tickets are still available for \$30 each and can be purchased at the Magnolia State Bank locations in Milledgeville and Gray, at Trish Ann’s Antiques Gifts & Tearoom in Haddock, or on the GCS website via PayPal.

“If you can’t come but would like to sponsor a cancer patient, you can also make a \$30 tax deductible gift and help a cancer patient have a blessed day that might not can afford a ticket. We have about 42 women that are on our cancer list that can’t afford to come to the tea party that is in their honor,” White said. “With \$30, we can buy two boxes of Boost. With \$50, we can buy medicine for two cancer patients for one week.”

Sponsors for this year's tea party include Magnolia State Bank, Serenity Wellness Spa & Salon, Linda's Attic & Antique Emporium, Designing Line, Charmed Beauty Spa, Beckham's Used Cars, Childre Chevrolet, Papa John's Pizza, Chick-fil-A and more.

White created GCS to serve Georgia cancer patients and their families by providing support and resources in all areas with a focus on the needs of each patient. GCS officially kicked off Jan. 1 last year and the nonprofit plans to continue ministering and providing excellence through networking, researching, education and community service. Volunteers, educators and outreach workers collaborate to make a difference in every patient's life.

"We help with transportation, co-pays with doctors, food, prescriptions and anything cancer patients need for their physical well-being. We've already had 98 people since January last year, and 83 of them were out of the Milledgeville, Gray and Dublin area. The needs here are great," White said. "I thank God we are able to do this with the support of the Milledgeville community. Without the volunteers, donors, sponsors and supporters, we couldn't do this because it takes so much money. All of the money is dependent on our fundraisers and donations; it all stays here locally in the middle Georgia area."

For more information about the event, to purchase tickets, or donate funds and supplies, including Boost and gas cards, contact White at 478-731-9390, or visit www.georgiacancersupport.com. Gas cards and other donations can also be mailed to P.O. Box 1938, Milledgeville, Ga. 31059.