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Georgia Cancer Support plans events to aid patients

Vaishali Patel, The Union-Recorder

MILLEDGEVILLE — More than 130 cancer patients in the central Georgia area have received aid in the form of funds, supplies, transportation or just companionship since Georgia Cancer Support (GCS) was established in 2011.

“Sometimes patients need a ride home from a doctor’s visit, and volunteers can help pick up groceries, take a patient out to eat, or help write cards to brighten up their day,” said Robbie White, founder of GCS and a colon cancer survivor.

White and her team of volunteers have planned several activities and events throughout the year to raise money to continue providing cancer patients with support and resources they desperately need.

“We’re becoming more and more resourceful and working with other organizations to provide needs for these cancer patients. We can’t pay major bills but we can tackle the small things,” White said. “We’re a Christian-based ministry and our number one goal is to let cancer patients know that there is hope and they can be healed through Jesus.”

Upcoming events include:

- May 25: From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., area cancer patients, families, sponsors and the community are invited to Gordon and Denise Beal’s pond for a fishing rodeo. The free event is in partnership with Jay’s HOPE Foundation. Professional fishermen will provide fishing lessons while Elite Gymnastics will conduct various activities. Adult and children cancer patients will have the chance to win door prizes while the boy and girl who catches the most fish will win a fishing rod and reel. Those interested in attending must contact White by May 21 to receive a free lunch provided by an area restaurant. The Beal’s pond is located at 141 Salem Church Dr. off Highway 49;
- June 11: From 5 to 8 p.m., Chick-fil-A will donate a portion of revenues to local teenager Josh Thompson who is diagnosed with cancer. Dr. Noell Craig will donate matching funds raised from the event to GCS. T-shirts for Thompson will be available and Georgia Battery will raffle off a battery charger.
- Sept. 2: Childre Nissan will host a Sell-A-Thon for GCS and donate \$100 for every car sold. GCS will also raffle a University of Georgia basket and tickets to a football game during the event. Families are welcome to enjoy refreshments, facepainting and children’s activities and have the opportunity to purchase a Boston butt.

“We also have our golf tournament at the Milledgeville Country Club in the works. Designing Line is working on a fundraiser for Georgia Cancer Support sometime in the fall,” White said of other tentative fundraising events. “Around Thanksgiving, we will sell ribbons for our Tree of Hope in the Milledgeville Mall in memory or in honor of a loved one.”

White also hopes to gather much-needed supplies in order to care for as many patients as possible.

“We would love to have donations of gas cards from Kroger or Walmart because that helps tremendously with their transportation. Gift cards for food are always needed as well as Boost,” she said. “Food can also be donated to the soup kitchen and Northside Baptist Church.”

GCS is a Christian-based, nonprofit organization that dedicates its efforts to assisting all types of cancer patients in need. GCS raises money through gracious donations and various events to provide resources and other means of support for the patients.

“We raised close to \$16,000 last year in total from all fundraisers and donations. We have spent close to \$12,000 giving back to cancer patients. We’re averaging about four to five calls per week now, so that means we’re going to have to double our goal this year in order to keep up since we have a limit on how much we can spend on each cancer patient, but every little bit helps,” White said. “We’re very thankful to all of the sponsors, supporters, partners and people that have come out to help us at each event. Without Milledgeville this organization would not be here. We do have great volunteers from Macon and Warner Robins, but we get more business from the Milledgeville area.”

For more information about upcoming events, or to donate funds or supplies, call White at 478-731-9390, visit www.gacancersupport.com, or like the Georgia Cancer Support Facebook page.