

Local golf tournament to benefit cancer research

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By Patrick Varine

Milford Beacon

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Milford, Del. -

After Will George's wife, Florinda, passed away in May 2007 from breast cancer, he began to find a common thread in the phone calls he would receive.

George, a Major League Baseball scout for the Colorado Rockies, got calls from friends, family and MLB co-workers from all over the nation, "and each person would call, give their sympathies and then say 'My aunt had the same thing,' or 'My mother passed away from breast cancer'... you start to realize just how many people are touched by this disease."

Not only that, George said, but he also realized the number of people who do not have the financial or proper medical means to battle it.

"My wife fought for six and a half years," George said, "and I didn't want to stop the fight."

As such, last year he organized the first Scouting for a Cure Golf Classic. It took place in Ocean City, drew 62 golfers – including industry pals like Phillies manager Charlie Manuel and Cal Ripken Jr., who was George's minor-league roommate back in the day – and raised \$14,000 through the tournament, dinner and a silent auction.

Along with a dinner and dance in George's New Jersey hometown, Scouting for a Cure raised a total of \$26,000, allowing the group to sponsor a room at the Fox Chase Cancer Center's Hope Lodge, in Philadelphia.

"The sponsorship is a \$25,000 commitment that will keep a room ready and equipped for a family who doesn't have the money for cancer treatment; care and treatment are provided there at no cost to the patient," George said.

"To me, it's just a tremendous thing to be able to do, because [treatment] can be such a huge strain, both financially and personally, on a family."

The golf tournament, dinner and auction will be in place again this year, when the second annual tournament will take place Oct. 29 at The Rookery, in Milton, and George said he is hoping to sponsor a second room, and eventually a full wing at the Hope Lodge.

"We hope to keep growing this thing each and every year and make it bigger and as nice an event as possible," he said.

The second annual Scouting for a Cure will take place Oct. 29 at The Rookery, near the intersection of routes 1 and 16 in Milton. The cost per player is \$150 (\$50 for buffet dinner). If you're not a golfer but still would like to contribute, donations for the auction can be arranged through George's Web site,

www.scoutingforacure.org.

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