

Scout's work aims to strike out cancer



Photo provided

Gathered are (front) Dante George, Maria Olivieri, (back) Liz Olivieri, Patrick Delaney, Sal Olivieri and Will George.

Former baseball star raises money in memory of wife

By **KEVIN CALLAHAN**
Courier-Post Staff

As a baseball pitcher, Will George sure knew how to throw. The lefthander, though, also knows how to hit.

George, a major league scout for the Colorado Rockies, is hitting back in the battle against cancer.

After his wife, Florinda, died two years ago, George started a charity to raise money for cancer called Scouting For A Cure.

Scouting For a Cure is already hitting.

IF YOU GO

■ The second annual Dinner, DJ & Dancing fundraiser for Scouting for a Cure will be at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 7 at the St. Cecilia's School Gym, 49th Street and Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken. Tickets are \$35. For tickets, contact Will George at **(856) 625-5133** or wg22659@aol.com or Tom Troncone at **(856) 419-8509** or troncone21@hotmail.com.

■ For more information, visit www.scoutingforcure.com.

Over the last two years, proceeds from Scouting For A Cure went to the

American Cancer Society's research programs. One of the designated benefactors was the Hope Lodge on the Fox Chase Cancer Center campus in Philadelphia.

Already, Scouting For A Cure has reached its inaugural goal of \$25,000 to have a memorial room named after Florinda at the Hope Lodge.

"When we presented the check, one of the (patients') rooms said Scouting For A Cure in memory of Florinda George. It real-

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Charity/Scouting For A Cure helps center

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ly made me feel good," George said. "That is when I gave a commitment of another \$100,000 and the whole third floor hall will be named Scouting For A Cure."

Another fundraiser for Scouting For A Cure will be the second annual Dinner, DJ & Dancing on Feb. 7 at the St. Cecilia's School Gym in Pennsauken not far from

where George grew up.

"It will be another fun evening," George said.

George is looking forward to an even better day. He is looking forward to the day Scouting For A Cure reaches its \$100,000 goal.

"It will be special stepping off the elevator and seeing the Scouting For A Cure hall and then seeing the room and to know the room is being used 365 days a year," George said about the

room named after his wife. "People will be staying there and they will have access to things they wouldn't have had."

George's wife died of breast cancer at age 44 in 2007. She battled years against the disease.

"I would walk with her in the Suzy Komen walks when she was going through treatments and she had grit," George said. "And to see 40,000 people walking would

bring you to your knees and make you cry."

George, who will turn 50 in February, was an overpowering All-South Jersey left-handed pitcher for Pennsauken High School. He was also the Indians' starting quarterback during the mid-1970s.

George, who scouted for the Florida Marlins when they won the World Series in 1997 and has scouted for Colorado since 1999, also

runs a Scouting For A Cure golf outing in Ocean City, Md.

He lives with his 11-year-old son, Dante, in Milford, Del.

The family is looking forward to when The Lodge begins operation in late spring.

"It will be some kind of facility," George said.

Reach Kevin Callahan at (856) 317-7821 or kcallahan@courierpostonline.com.

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