

In the face of record need,

the Take a Swing at Cancer Golf Tournament hit its longest drive in 2011.

The annual tournament held in May to raise money for North Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Patient Assistance Fund brought in more than \$75,000, beating the 2010 total by more than \$20,000.

"It's amazing to have a record-setting year with this economy," said Martha Whitaker, who with Sherry Abraham, Ruth Case and Karen Joyal, founded the golf tournament in 1996.

The need couldn't be greater. In the 2006 fiscal year, the fund spent almost \$39,000 to help 476 patients. Over the past 12 months, the fund has spent nearly \$148,000 to aid 823, said Cancer Center Social Worker Cindy Edwards.

"We will spend what we make in this tournament in about five months," Cancer Center director Paula Turner said.

The fund helps patients in need with transportation to daily radiation therapy appointments, access pain and anti-nausea medications and certain nutritional supplements and emergency assistance with utility bills.

The cancer assistance fund, one of 25 managed by the foundation, receives support from NMMC employees, physicians, donations and memorials, but the tournament is by far the single biggest source of support.

"Without this tournament, we wouldn't be able to do what we do," said Steven Blaylock, foundation development director.

The tournament has raised \$624,000 since efforts to organize the event began in 1995.



Back row, from left: Cindy Edwards, North Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Center; Paula Turner, Cancer Center; Tommy Morgan, committee member and past chairman; Hoppy Whitaker, committee member and past chairman; Glenn McCullough, 2011-2012 chairman; and Steven Blaylock, Health Care Foundation. Sherry Abraham and Martha Whitaker (seated), are founding members.

"It's a team effort," said Glenn McCullough Jr., the 2011 and 2012 tournament chairman. "We have a large committee; they're the ones who deserve the credit."

The tournament, which started at the Natchez Trace Golf Club in Saltillo and is now held at Old Waverly in West Point, has a loyal following, but it's more than just a fun day on the links.

"I think it's the cause that drives it," said Tommy Morgan, who has been a corporate sponsor since the first tournament. "It's meeting a need."

By: Michaela Gibson Morris
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal

To help

To help cancer patients in need, donations can be mailed to the Health Care Foundation of North Mississippi, 830 S. Gloster St., Tupelo, MS 38801. Please earmark checks as NMMC Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund. The Health Care Foundation is a 501c3 organization and all donations are tax-deductible. For more information, call (662) 377-3613.

Find us on [facebook](#) at Take a Swing at Cancer.



Newsletter

Letter from the Chairman

Dear friends,

Your contribution to the 2011 Take a Swing at Cancer golf tournament enabled us to have a record-breaking year. Thank you! \$75,000 was raised, which will benefit local cancer patients through the North Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund.

This is the largest amount ever raised in the Take a Swing at Cancer golf tournament's 15-year history.

The NMMC Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund helps qualifying cancer patients get much needed pain and anti-nausea medications, nutritional supplements, transportation for treatment and other supplies. This fund is often the only resource available to help patients and their families through this difficult period of their lives.

In 2006, the fund helped 476 patients with a total of \$44,682. That number has steadily increased, and thus far in 2011 the fund has already served 823 patients for a total of \$148,000.

Plans are already under way for the 2012 tournament, and we are hoping for yet another record-breaking year! Please mark your calendar for **May 14, 2012** and join us for a great event that benefits such a worthy cause. Let's make the 2012 Take a Swing at Cancer golf tournament another record breaker for the benefit of our neighbors throughout northeast Mississippi.

Very truly yours,

Glenn L. McCullough, Jr.
Tournament Chairman

Save
The
Date!



Take A Swing At Cancer

Thanks to our sponsors for helping make this a great event!

2011 Take A Swing at Cancer Sponsors

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Tournament chairman Glenn McCullough talks to the golfers about the NMMC Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund just before the awards presentation.



Winners of the morning flight (from left) were Chauncey Godwin, Dr. Sam Pace, Dr. Barney Guyton and Les Ellis.



Dr. Dick White, (left) chairman of the Health Care Foundation's board of directors, presents the tournament chairman cup to Glenn McCullough in recognition of his service as well as those who served before him.



Guy Hovis, celebrity host for the tournament, accepts his trophy as a token of appreciation for his participation in the tournament.



Chairman's Cup honorees (from left) Hoppy Whitaker, Martha Whitaker, Tommy Morgan and Glenn McCullough.

Thanks to our committee members for working year-round on this event:

- Steven Blaylock
- George Bryan
- Hugh Cooper
- Wally Davis
- Lawrence Deas
- Kenny Dill
- Cindy Edwards
- Leighton Gibens
- Gunner Goad
- Jim Goodwin
- Dean Hancock
- Jeff Houin, M.D.
- Dr. Mark Keenum
- Rhonda Keenum
- Charlotte Magnussen, M.D.
- Justin Martin
- Glenn L. McCullough, Jr.
- Tommy Morgan
- John Oxford
- Tony Palazzo
- Niki Peel
- Mark Ray, M.D.
- Paula Turner
- Hoot Wilder
- Mark Williams, M.D.

**TAKE
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