

May 3, 2010
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TAKE A SWING AT CANCER BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT SET FOR MAY 17

WEST POINT, Miss.—The Health Care Foundation of North Mississippi will sponsor the 15th annual *Take a Swing at Cancer* Benefit Golf Tournament Monday, May 17, at Old Waverly in West Point.

Proceeds benefit the North Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund, which provides approximately \$220,000 annually for needy patients and their families.

The golf tournament is being organized by community volunteers and representatives from the Health Care Foundation and the NMMC Cancer Center.

The cost is \$250 per player for the four-person scramble. Golfers who are cancer survivors will receive special recognition during the tournament.

There will be two flights, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. and again at 12:30 p.m. A luncheon for all players will be held at 11 a.m., as well as a reception at 6 p.m.

The entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart fee, lunch, registration gift, door prize entry and the evening social. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place finishers in both divisions. Each field will have a longest drive and closest to the pin competition. For more information on the *Take a Swing at Cancer* Benefit Golf Tournament, call (662) 377-3613 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375), or log on to www.nmhs.net/hcf.php and click on “Take a Swing at Cancer.”

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Sidebar:

Little did tournament organizers realize fifteen years ago how their efforts might bring others to charitably support the NMMC Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund. Recently, Health Care Foundation of North Mississippi became the beneficiary of a bequest of more than \$500,000 from the Estate of Kay Gilreath for the NMMC Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund. Gilreath worked for Aflac for more than 20 years, during

which several of her Aflac colleagues and employees were volunteering for the Take A Swing At Cancer golf tournament. She passed away in 2007 after a nine-month battle with cancer.

“She was always very conservative, but willing to give to others throughout her life,” said Gilreath’s cousin, Ginger Hardy of Tupelo, who also works at Aflac. “One of the things we do is educate people about what cancer does to a family financially,” Hardy said. “She knew better than anybody, even before she was diagnosed, how financially devastating cancer could be. She saw people come in who literally could not afford to buy food because they were paying for cancer treatments. When she knew that she was dying of cancer, she knew she could help others by leaving a gift to this fund and other charities and organizations. I think it’s awesome that she was able to help so many people during her life and will continue helping people in her death.”

The Health Care Foundation has used the estate gift to create the Linda Kay Gilreath Endowment. Annual earnings from the endowment will support the increasing amount of patient assistance needs at the NMMC Cancer Center.

For more information on how to give to the NMMC Cancer Center Patient Assistance Fund, call (662) 377-3613 or visit www.nmhs.net/hcf.php.