

January 22, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FESTIVAL OFFERS HOPE TO LOCAL CANCER,
DIABETES AND HEART DISEASE PATIENTS**

TUPELO, Miss.—Project Hope invites area families to come out Friday, Feb. 26, and make a difference in the lives of local cancer, diabetes and heart disease patients.

The 11th annual Festival of Hope is planned for 6-10 p.m. at Tupelo Furniture Market's Building 5, 1879 N. Coley Rd. With the theme, "Welcome to HOPEville" centered around the classic books of Dr. Seuss, organizers promise good food, entertainment and fun for all ages. Dr. Karl and Bev Crossen are this year's honorary chairs.

Survivors of heart disease, cancer and diabetes will be honored during the opening ceremonies, and a time of remembrance is planned for those who lost their battle against these diseases.

Back by popular demand, local rock band Spunk Monkees will provide the evening's entertainment. Before the Spunk Monkees take the stage, teams will face off in a talent contest, and the Lee County Sheriff's Department will take on the Tupelo Fire Department in the annual "Battle of the Badge."

Hamburger and hot dog plates will be sold for \$5 each to benefit Project Hope. Children's events are planned until 9 p.m., and games and musical entertainment will be ongoing throughout the event. Presenting sponsors are North Mississippi Medical Center and Project Hope. For more information about Festival of Hope, call (662) 377-3867 or (662) 377-4143, or visit www.projecthopems.com.