Creating a World with More Birthdays.

To most people, birthdays are just a reminder that they're getting older. But at the American Cancer Society, "Happy Birthday" is a victory song, because a world with less cancer is a world with more birthdays. And that's definitely something to celebrate.

More than 11 million Americans who have survived cancer—and countless others who have avoided it—will celebrate a birthday this year, thanks to the progress we're making together to help people stay well and get well, to find cures, and fight back.

Join the movement for more birthdays—declare the American Cancer Society the official sponsor of your birthday. It doesn't have to be your birthday and you don't have to be a cancer survivor to join. Just imagine how many more birthdays we can save if we create a movement of millions fighting for more candles to light.

Visit us at **morebirthdays.com** to register your birthday. Tell your friends!

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SUMMER 2009 ISSUE

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HopeLodge

TWIN CITIES cancer.org/HopeLodgeMinneapolis

Hope Lodge Unveils New Room Sponsorship Program

By Mary Wiles, Hope Lodge Manager

We all understand that in difficult economic times cancer doesn't just go away. For many cancer patients the various costs associated with treatment can risk overwhelming their finances. Unfortunately, a down economy means more people will need help.

To help offset the operating costs each Hope Lodge incurs, the American Cancer Society Midwest Division has announced a new program in which donors can sponsor the operating costs of individual guest rooms. Room sponsorships are flexible, anywhere from a day to a year, and have been calculated to cover the actual costs of operating the room. Sponsorship levels start around fifty dollars.

So what is the value of a Hope Lodge? We know that Hope Lodge has a very tangible benefit: cancer patients are saving thousands of dollars in lodging costs every night. Over the course of a year guests at the four American Cancer Society Midwest Division Hope Lodges save $5 million.

Many guests at a Hope Lodge will tell you that the financial benefits are tremendous, but it is the supportive environment and the relationships built and nurtured by a common journey, that provide the greatest benefit to cancer patients.

Room sponsor gifts can help others through this difficult time by helping to underwrite the cost of their stay. Any gift, regardless of size, is deeply appreciated by those who become part of the Hope Lodge.

All gifts are fully tax-deductible and will be acknowledged on the sponsorship wall at the Hope Lodge. Gifts of $1,000 or more will also be recognized with a sign in the guest room during the period the room is sponsored by a donor.

For information about the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge and the Room Sponsorship program, please contact The Richard M. Schulze Family American Cancer Society Hope Lodge at cancer.org/HopeLodgeMinneapolis or call 612.379.6352.

Knutson Construction Services Continues To Give

Knutson Construction Services (KCS) of Minneapolis, Minn. built The Richard M. Schulze Family American Cancer Society Hope Lodge. They provided a competitive bid, including a significant in-kind gift, and completed the work on time and under budget. Now, they have decided to continue to give to the Hope Lodge.

Through their generosity the Hope Lodge now includes a new maintenance shed located on the Hope Lodge grounds. Along with the construction of the shed, KCS provided a lawn mower, leaf blower, hedge trimmer and a variety of tools. Not only has this helped the Hope Lodge reduce lawn maintenance costs, several KCS employees have even volunteered to take responsibility for lawn care. This gift will continue to save the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge maintenance costs every year for years to come.

In addition to all this, a handful of KCS employees went a step farther. They stopped by early on a chilly spring morning to provide a warm, home-cooked breakfast to our Hope Lodge guests. Their kindness and generosity were deeply appreciated by the guests.

Knutson Construction Services employees Dustin Brandt, Dick Reinke and Jon Watkins (left to right) stand ready for action with the lawn mower in front of the newly constructed shed.

Team Hope

"Team Hope" participated in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life at the University of Minnesota earlier this year. The Hope Lodge team raised nearly $1,000 to fight cancer. If you'd like to participate in a Relay For Life you can find an event near you by visiting cancer.org or calling 1.800.227.2345.

Hope Lodge Celebrates First Reunion

The Richard M. Schulze Family American Cancer Society Hope Lodge celebrated its first reunion on May 31, just a day after our Hope Lodge Gala. More than 75 people attended the reunion. It was a day filled with stories, food, laughter and tears as guests, donors, volunteers and staff reunited.

Christine Aquino of Red Wing, Minn. was a current guest who shared her feelings about what Hope Lodge means to her. "To share stories, to compare symptoms, to know that there is a place that shelters us, and gives us a chance to rest and heal and grow, this is Hope Lodge," she said.

"The staff is devoted to making our days just a little easier, their humor gives us a reason to laugh, and the companionship gives us the strength to walk another mile in this life. The friendships bound in common goals to breathe deeply and love life will last an eternity," said Aquino.

Several other people also shared their thoughts about Hope Lodge. Corky Workman of Rice, Minn., a former guest, told about his stay at the Hope Lodge and the many friendships he made. Coral Houle, a longtime Society volunteer and former President of the American Cancer Society Midwest Division, Inc., spoke on the importance of volunteerism and giving back to your community. Leah Otterlei, Eleanor Leary and Caroline Gale, all bone marrow transplant social workers at the University of Minnesota, spoke about how patients and caregivers inspire all those who help them through their journey.

The Hope Lodge staff and volunteers would also like to thank Huber Commercial Services, Hunt Electric Corporation and Knutson Construction Services for their donations to the Hope Lodge reunion.

Bernie and Bev Berg of Clearwater, Minnesota recently sent a note of thanks to the Hope Lodge.

Bernie and Bev Berg, guests at The Richard M. Schulze Family American Cancer Society Hope Lodge in Minneapolis.

Hi,

We can't thank you enough for providing us with lodging as we went through Bev's transplant. The staff did all they could to make us feel welcome and comfortable. The fellow guests became like one large family. You were all there for support during the trying times and the joyous times. Like any family we cried a little and laughed a lot.

Much stress was relieved because of the shuttle service, the informational programs that let us know what to expect down the road, and the community support from volunteer groups providing us with a meal now and then or a fun night of bingo.

It all made for a positive experience.

Thank you!

Bev & Bernie Berg