HOPE LODGE news

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We **save lives** and create more birthdays by helping you stay well, helping you get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back.

cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345

The Musekamp Family Hope Lodge cordially invites you and your guests to attend

The eighth annual Anniversary Celebration and Holiday Open House

Thursday, December 13, 2012
6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Musekamp Family Hope Lodge
2806 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45206

We hope you will join us for hors d'oeuvres, drinks, holiday music, and a cheery fire!

To RSVP please call 1-888-227-6446 ext. 4900 or email robert.ange@cancer.org

This event will go on regardless of weather conditions; it will not be rescheduled.
Event will be hosted by our friends from Ethicon Endo Surgery

The official registration and financial information of the American Cancer Society, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Ohio residents may call 717-783-1720.

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HOPE LODGE® news

WINTER 2012

MUSEKAMP FAMILY HOPE LODGE

A Rare Form of Breast Cancer **Brings Guest to Hope Lodge**

Jason Smith, fighting breast cancer while staying at Hope Lodge.

Breast cancer in males is rare. This is one of the main reasons it was a long time before Jason Smith even realized that he might have the disease.

"I had the tumor for seven years and assumed it was a cyst. I first noticed I had an issue while I was in the military. Something would brush up against the left side of my chest and I would get this red- hot pain," Jason explained. "I would just think to myself 'Don't do that again!'"

The pain went away for a while, but it continued to grow from being rice-sized to the size of a marble, when he finally went to get it checked.

"I went to the doctor and they did a mammogram and an ultrasound. They said it was consistent with cancer and referred me to a breast cancer specialist," said Jason. "They asked if I wanted to do a needle biopsy or an excisional biopsy, which would get rid of it all. I opted for the excisional biopsy."

A week later the results. And a week after that, Jason was having surgery.

"I remember the doctor telling me that I had breast cancer. My breast cancer was so rare; I was part of one percent of all the cancer patients he has ever seen," Jason said. "I called my sister and told her it was breast cancer. I was scared because I let it go for seven years. You just can't ignore something like that and think it will leave you alone!"

Jason's breast cancer had spread, and he traveled from Columbus to Cincinnati to receive his treatments. He is a current resident of the American Cancer Society's Musekamp Family Hope Lodge.

"Staying at the Hope Lodge is great. I feel like an English lord," he laughed. "This place is like living in a mansion. I thoroughly enjoy the Great Room and I love sitting out on the deck and listening to music. It's really nice."

Jason will be receiving treatment for about three months before being able to return to Columbus.

"I really like to believe that one day I will have beaten it. I just really want to be able to live a life where I can deal with [the cancer] and still be able to take care of myself," he said.

The American Cancer Society offers many programs and services for those fighting cancer. For more information on how the Society can help, visit cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ■

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Former Guest **Gives Thanks**

Dear Hope Lodge,

Last year at this time I was your resident while my husband was in Jewish Hospital receiving a stem cell transplant. We were in week three of treatment.

The year prior we spent going from specialist to specialist trying to determine what was wrong with John. No one seemed able to find a reason for the problems he was having with his health. Then the diagnosis finally came, Mantle Cell Lymphoma. Stage Four, no less.

The next few months were spent gathering information, going to appointments, having PET scans, and initiating chemo. We both were new to the world of cancer as were our families.

Chemo proved successful and we were thrilled. Then our doctor told us the chances of the return of his cancer and referred us to a doctor at Jewish Hospital who specialized in stem cell treatment. It was a scary procedure and the time it took away from home was distressing. What else could we do but accept this option or spend months and years with anxiety looking over our shoulders anticipating the shadows of cancer to be encroaching on us.

We were told of Hope Lodge and encouraged to visit and consider it as possible accommodations for our stay in Cincinnati. We were admitted and greeted by a staff member. We weren't long into the tour when I realized after months of navigating the storm of cancer care that we were now in the eye of the storm.

The peace and concern could be sensed as we were escorted from room to room. I knew care had been taken to provide patients and caregivers with a home away from home.

As the weeks passed and Christmas approached, I wondered about my first Christmas away from family. I wandered about the dimly lighted public rooms. The multiple Christmas trees were still glowing. I went into the great room and looked out the windows at the garden filling up with snow. Large flakes were gliding down coating the statuary and shrubbery. Oddly enough, I felt embraced by the entire building. The love and care the staff members exhibited had, somehow, taken a place in the space I thought would be void.

I must have stayed there for a couple of hours just alternating between watching the snow and the great tree that was still lit. A delicious feeling of contentment came over me. I thought of the many faces of cancer I had met. Their determination to fight their disease took hold of me. That Christmas I thought would be one of my worst, ended up being one of my best. Sharing my crisis with so many had replaced my discouragement and anger with confidence and positive motivation. Was this the best Christmas gift ever? I think so.

I would encourage present residents to let Hope Lodge lead them to a peaceful place. I can't explain it. I just know it's there.

My husband is a year out of treatment and is still cancer-free. While science is certainly instrumental in recovery so is the spirit of hope.

I didn't know that until I experienced all Hope Lodge has to offer.

With sincerity and thanks,

Cynthia H.

Springfield, OH
Guest of Hope Lodge

To find out more about Hope Lodge, visit cancer.org/HopeLodge. If you would like to make a donation to the Lodge, please call 1-800-227-2345 or use the enclosed envelope.. Thank you for your support! ■

Dornette Foundation **Makes Generous Gift to Hope Lodge**

The American Cancer Society thanks to the Dornette Foundation for a generous $25,000 donation to Hope Lodge. It is because of this donation and others just like this that the Hope Lodge is able to provide free housing for cancer patients going through treatment.

The Dornette Foundation supports organizations that Helen Dornette, a life-long resident of Cincinnati, found to be important during her lifetime.

The money will be used for general operations.

Not having to worry about where to stay or how to pay for lodging allows guest to focus on getting well. The Lodge offers private rooms and a variety of resources and information about cancer and how to best fight the disease.

To find out more about the Hope Lodge, visit cancer.org/HopeLodge. If you would like to make a donation to the Lodge, please call 1-800-227-2345. Thank you for your support! ■

Guests Staying at the Hope Lodge

The American Cancer Society's mission to fight cancer and celebrate more birthdays is being realized through the Hope Lodge program. The map below shows the number of guests that have stayed at the Musekamp Family Hope Lodge over the past year and where they are from.

Manager's Corner

Giving the Gift of Hope during the Season of Hope!

Season's Greetings to our Hope Lodge Family and Friends!

Another year has almost come and gone! The end of the year, December, is usually referred to as the "holiday season" and is a time for parties and festivities with loved ones. People want to celebrate their accomplishments of the past year and their hopes for the new. Unfortunately for many, it remains a time to fight their cancer and to get well. For some this fight has to take place far away from their homes, away from loved ones.

At Hope Lodge, we are giving hope a home by providing no cost lodging to cancer patients and their families while receiving their treatment in Cincinnati. Here, besides lodging, they can receive support from staff and other residents in a comfortable setting, much like their homes. Frequently we have volunteers come in to cook dinner for everyone. We try to ease some of the financial and emotional burdens that a cancer diagnosis can cause.

We invite you to join us in giving the gift of "Hope" this holiday season by making a generous year-end contribution to the Musekamp Family Hope Lodge. Your gift will help our guests all year! You can make this gift to honor those loved ones who have this disease or were lost to it.

We know that times are still rough for some, which is why your gift is so important in bringing hope and comfort to those facing cancer. We also know we can count on you because you know the value and importance of Hope Lodge and the mission of the American Cancer Society.

We hope to see many of you at our Holiday Open House and eighth anniversary celebration on Thursday, December 13.

Sincerely,

Bob Ange
Manager, Musekamp Family Hope Lodge

You can contact Bob at robert.ange@cancer.org or by calling 1-888-227-6446 ext. 4900.