

## RACQUET FOR THE CURE

August 25 & 26, 2006 - Landmark Racquet & Health Club

Peoria's 2nd annual Racquet for the Cure (RFTC) tournament was held on August 25 & 26, 2006 and hosted by Landmark Racquet & Health Club, Peoria, IL. This fundraising racquetball event was held in support of the Peoria Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The foundation was established in 1982 to help fight breast cancer by funding research grants and supporting education, screening and treatment projects in communities around the world.

Our goals for this year were to have 50+ players enter the tournament and donate \$6,000 to the Foundation. Both goals were exceeded. In order to achieve these goals, a Planning & Fundraising Committee, consisting of Jim Maroon & Pam Schubach (co-directors), Terry Sutton, Traci Steen, Karen Carter, Joann Kempthorne and Gail Goepfinger set objectives. We also had an Advisory Committee consisting of Cheryl Kirk (Naperville), Laurel Davis (Chicago), Kelly Carter (Bloomington), Jean Gallagher (Colorado) and Kurt Mankle (Peoria) to get their input and pass the word to other local clubs.

We had **77 players** (up from 51 last year) consisting of **53 women** (up from 34 last year) and 24 men (Mixed doubles only). The players came from throughout the Midwest and Colorado. A donation in the amount of **\$10,500** will be presented to Linda Maricle, Program Director of the Peoria Memorial Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation by Terry, Pam and Jim.

The format was a two-day racquetball tournament beginning Friday evening with Women's Singles, Women's Doubles, and to include the men, Mixed Doubles. On Saturday, we had a full day of racquetball with many women playing in three events. Upon entering the tournament, all women were given a stylish pink scoop-neck Tee with the RFTC logo in embroidered lettering and goodie bag full of items, coupons, etc. The men received a dri-release T-shirt with the RFTC logo.

Many companies and individuals were sponsors donating money, gift certificates and items to assist with expenses, awards and the silent auction. Door prizes were drawn during the day. Everyone female participant took home a door prize. Gold sponsors (\$1,000+) were Carter Law Offices, Ektelon, OSF Medical Group, Kades Coffee Company, Sutton Carpet Center and RJ Distributing. Silver sponsors (\$500+) were Landmark Racquet & Health Club, F. Michael Schubach-Advanced Asset Management, Maui Jim, Inc., Steiger Farms, Associated Bank, Green Chevrolet Hummer and Wilson. Bronze sponsors (\$250+) were Illini Golf, McDonald's Corp., Mitchell Family Trust, Rhythm Kitchen & Music Café, Hamburg Distributing, Pepsi and Dr. John Richier & Associates.

The Rhythm Kitchen & Music Cafe provided a variety of delicious foods and sandwiches for lunch. These foods were complimented by fruit from Cub Foods. Kitchen Cooked

provided potato chips and pretzels for the day. Pepsi provided soda, Hamburg Distributing provided water and Landmark served the banquet meal.

Professional racquetball player Andy Hawthorne (#11 in USA rankings) partnered with his aunt Kim Wolpert from Peoria. Kim is a breast cancer survivor. Andy traveled from Tallmadge, Ohio to play in this event. Kim and Andy won the Mixed Open Division.

After the tournament, an awards banquet, slide show, silent auction and dance was held. Guest speakers included Dr. Michael Veeder, Director of Oncology at Oncology-Hematology Association, Pam Schubach, CEO of Peoria YWCA, Jean Gallagher, founder of RFTC from Denver and Jim Maroon, Peoria RFTC.

Every woman attending the banquet was given a fresh pink carnation provided by Beck's Florist. Banquet tables were decorated consisting of pink balloons, flowers and pink athletic shoes. The evening gala was a lot of fun capped off with beer and wine, provided by RJ Distributing, a great meal, music and dancing. The Soggy Bottom Blues Band (SB3) and belly dancing by Pava's Gems dance troupe provided live entertainment. WHOI-TV (ABC) and WEEK-TV (NBC) were on hand to produce a story which was aired on the Saturday evening news.

Awards were presented to players in all divisions. This year the women's awards were in pink and silver jewelry – 1<sup>st</sup> place a watch bracelet, 2<sup>nd</sup> place a necklace and 3<sup>rd</sup> place a key fob. In addition, "Fun Awards" were voted on basically on how players looked and behaved during the day. The following players were duly noted and received a bag of gifts as their awards: Best Bruise – Traci Steen, Best Dive – Kim Wolpert, Best Dress – Debi Ramos and "Playing" with the Girls Award – Jim Maroon for contributions to the team. The awards sponsors were Terry Schubach, Dennis Toland, Tri-County Appraisal Services, Wickwire Chiropractic, Bob & Gweneth Schwab, Lou Taylor, Ron Rempel-Country Insurance, Purvis & Freisinger Construction, Illinois State Racquetball Association and Jim Chambers-Smith Barney.

Thanks to support of our sponsors, the tournament players, the Planning and Fundraising committee, the Advisory Committee and the many volunteers for making this event a success! Plans are underway for the 3rd Annual Racquet for the Cure tournament in Peoria to help fight breast cancer in August 2007.

By Jim Maroon, RFTC Co-director  
8/31/06