

PEORIA'S 3rd ANNUAL RACQUET FOR THE CURE

August 24 & 25, 2007 - Landmark Racquet & Health Club

Peoria, IL held its 3rd annual Racquet for the Cure (RFTC) tournament on August 24 & 25, 2007 at Landmark Racquet & Health Club. This racquetball event was held in support of The Peoria Memorial Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. 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 goal this year was to donate \$7,500 to the Foundation. In order to achieve this goal, a Planning & Fundraising Committee, consisting of Pam Schubach & Jim Maroon (co-directors), Traci Steen, Karen Carter, Joann Kempthorne and Gail Goeppinger set objectives. To meet our goals, we added more local committee members including JoAnn Wickwire, Jim and Monica Freaner, John Snarr, Bob Schwab and Gary Steiger. We also had an Advisory Committee consisting of Cheryl Kirk (Naperville), Laurel Davis (Chicago) and Kelly Carter (Bloomington) to gain their input and pass the word to other local club players. With input from the Cheryl and Laurel, we had this tournament sanctioned for the first time by USA Racquetball. The sanctioning fees were underwritten by donations from the tournament.

We had 48 players this year consisting of 30 women and 18 men (Mixed doubles only). Our player count was down this year compared to 2006. The players came from Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. 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. Upon entering the tournament, all women were given an embroidered welcome bag (with the RFTC logo) full of items including Clinique, food coupons, etc. The men received a dri-release T-shirt with the RFTC logo.

This year the fundraising event added a new item to Friday nights venue – “Casino Nite”. Jim and Monica Freaner took charge of putting this activity together. We played Texas Hold'em, Black Jack and Crown & Anchor. Players would make a donation to Susan G. Komen for the Cure in exchange for poker chips. At the end of the evening, the chips were traded in for some very nice prizes, including jewelry, die-cast NASCAR cars, sports merchandise, etc. The cheering was loud as players beat the dealers! Pizza and award-winning chicken wings were provided compliments of Hammer's Bar & Restaurant of Bartonville. It was a fun night that raised money. This was a hit well worth repeating.

On Saturday, we had a full day of racquetball. We started the day with breakfast for the players provided by Landmark Racquet & Health Club. Match play began at 9:00 a.m. The Ektelon Fireball was used this year. It is the preferred ball for RFTC. The Rhythm Kitchen & Music Cafe provided a variety of delicious foods and sandwiches for lunch. These foods were complimented by Kitchen Cooked potato chips and pretzels for the day. Pepsi provided soda and Hamburg Distributing provided water. The final matches finished at 6 p.m. just in time for cocktails and the evening banquet held in Landmark's Starting Gate banquet room. An awards banquet, slide show, silent auction and dance was held. Guest speakers included Dave & Becky Auer, Race for the Cure Chairs, Pam Schubach, CEO of Peoria YWCA and Jim Maroon, Peoria RFTC. Cheryl Kirk presented to Dave & Becky a check from a raffle held in Houston, TX by the USA Racquetball Women's Committee during National Singles. They donated \$2,800 from a painting entitled “Spirit of the Journey” created by famous racquetball player Ruben Gonzalez.

Every woman attending the banquet was given a fresh pink carnation provided by Beck's Florist. Banquet tables were decorated consisting of pink ribboned balloons, flowers and pink athletic shoes. The evening gala was a lot of fun capped off with beer and wine, provided by RJ Distributing and a great meal supplied by Ponte Vecchio, music and dancing. Awards were presented to the top three players in all divisions.

Michael Schubach donated many popular sports items for the silent auction including autographed items such as a Franco Harris Steeler helmet and football, Terry Bradshaw football, Bob Gibson baseball, Jerry West basketball and Grizzley jerseys. These turned out to be highly contested for. There was a huge variety of quality

items to bid on this year. Local companies, racquetball companies and individuals provided a wide range of merchandise and services. The silent auction raised over \$5,300 which is \$1,300 more this year than in '06.

“Up All Night” DJ and karaoke services provided popular music which got the women and men up to sing and dance. Karaoke was a hit, especially as the evening went on. WEEK-TV (NBC) was on hand to produce a story which was aired on the Saturday evening news.

Many companies and individuals were sponsors donating money, gift certificates and items to assist with expenses, awards and the silent auction.

Gold sponsors (\$1,000+) were Carter Law Offices, Ektelon, OSF Medical Group, Advanced Asset Management-F. Michael Schubach and RJ Distributing.

Silver sponsors (\$500+) were Landmark Racquet & Health Club, Steiger Farms, Associated Bank, Green Chevrolet Hummer, Wilson, National City Bank, Dr. John Richier & Associates and LA WeightLoss.

Bronze sponsors (\$250+) were Illini Golf, Mitchell Family Trust, Rhythm Kitchen & Music Café, Hammer’s Bar & Restaurant, Maui Jim, Inc., Pepsi and Clark Management (McDonald’s).

Awards sponsors (\$100+) were Terry Schubach, Dennis Toland, John Bisanz - Tri-County Appraisal Services, Wickwire Chiropractic, Michael McCord – Illinois Mutual, Lisa Vicary - Identity Day Spa and Jim Chambers-Smith Barney.

We exceeded our fundraising goal again this year. A donation in the amount of **\$12,000** will be presented to Linda Maricle, Program Director of the Peoria Memorial Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure by Pam and Jim. This brings our three year donations total to \$27,000.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, the tournament players, the Planning & Fundraising Committee, the Advisory Committee and the many volunteers for making this event a success! Plans are underway for the 4th Annual Racquet for the Cure tournament in Peoria to help fight breast cancer in 2008.

By Jim Maroon, RFTC Co-director
9/25/07

RESULTS

Women’s Open/A Singles	1 st Place	Alice Douglas (Baxter YMCA, IN)
	2 nd Place	Kristen Coulter (Ottawa YMCA)
	3 rd Place	Georgia Russell (Forum Fitness, Rantoul)
Women’s AA Singles	1 st Place	Pam Schubach (Landmark, Peoria)
	2 nd Place	Laurel Davis (Glass Court, Lombard)
Women’s B/C Singles	1 st Place	Erin Hayworth (Landmark, Peoria)
	2 nd Place	Debi Ramos (Landmark, Peoria)
	3 rd Place	Keri Vance (Landmark, Peoria)
Women’s Open/A Doubles	1 st Place	Brenda White (Landmark, IL)/Debbie Chaney (IN)
	2 nd Place	Anna Shunk (Indy)/Alice Douglas (Indy)
	3 rd Place	Laurel Davis (Glass Court, IL)/Lynn Yeazell (Chicago, IL)
Women’s B/C Doubles	1 st Place	Shelly Marquez (Springfield R&F, IL)/Liz Anderson (Springfield R&F, IL)
	2 nd Place	Karen Carter (Landmark, Peoria)/Gail Goeppinger (Landmark, Peoria)
	3 rd Place	Erin Hayworth (Landmark, Peoria)/Debi Ramos (Landmark, Peoria)
Mixed Open/A Doubles	1 st Place	Pam Schubach (Landmark, Peoria)/Dan Curless (Landmark, Peoria)
	2 nd Place	Lynn Yeazell (Chicago, IL)/Brent Huff (New Lenox, IL)
	3 rd Place	Kelly Carter (4 Seasons, Bloomington)/Jim Maroon (Landmark, Peoria)
Mixed B/C Doubles	1 st Place	Liz Anderson (Springfield R&F, IL)/David Angevine (Landmark, Peoria)
	2 nd Place	Gail Goeppinger (Landmark, Peoria)/Brad Goeppinger (Landmark, Peoria)
	3 rd Place	Erin Hayworth (Landmark, Peoria)/Matt Kaag (Landmark, Peoria)