

## **PEORIA'S 5th ANNUAL RACQUET FOR THE CURE**

Peoria, IL held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Racquet for the Cure (RFTC) at Landmark Racquet & Health Club, 3225 N. Dries Lane on June 26 & 27, 2009. This racquetball event was held in support of The Peoria Memorial Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

We had two primary goals for our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. They were to have 75 participants (up from last years 54) and donate \$8,000 to the Foundation. The major area targeted for growth this year was in having more racquetball tournament participants. Given these difficult economic times, we knew it would be a tougher year to achieve our financial goal. A Planning & Fundraising Committee, consisting of Pam Schubach & Jim Maroon (co-directors), Karen Carter, Gail Goepfinger, JoAnn Wickwire, Jim and Monica Freaner, Mary Kay Herman, Laurel Davis, Cheryl Kirk, John Snarr, Bob Schwab, Traci and Gary Steiger set out to achieve these objectives.

The committee is thrilled to report that we had 84 participants, up 30 players from last year and an all time high since the inception of this tournament. Through many new and innovative approaches we are also excited to report that we are again beating our financial goal and donating \$10,000 to Komen for the Cure. While sponsorship income was down as anticipated it was offset by increases coming from some new activities including a Friday Night 50/50 raffle (\$110) and sales of pink bead necklaces (\$313). The largest increase in income came from more players through entry fee income (+\$785). The silent auction saw another increase (+\$286). The largest dollar amount in the silent auction (\$1,000) came from a Door County weekend package (New Haven) donated by Jim Wehrli and his sisters, Sue and Barb.

The tournament was sanctioned by USA Racquetball. This is the first time a tournament in Peoria was run online using R2 Sports software. The format was a two-day racquetball tournament beginning Friday evening with Men's Doubles. Saturday saw competition in Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Most of the players chose to enter two events and few women played in three events in one day.

This year the fundraising event on the Friday night venue – “Casino Nite” included the popular games, Black Jack and Crown & Anchor. Players made a donation to 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, sports merchandise, etc. Pizza and chicken wings were provided compliments of Crusen's II of Peoria. Casino Nite is a fun night and an exciting way to raise money. New this year was the 50/50 raffle which supported the Casino Nite contribution of \$475.

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 8:00 a.m. The Ektelon Fireball was used again this year. It is the preferred ball for RFTC. A variety of delicious sandwiches and soup was served for lunch. These foods were complimented by Kitchen Cooked potato chips and pretzels. The final matches finished 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. The banquet included dinner, complimentary wine, beer and soda, desserts and entertainment. Returning this year was “Up All Night” DJ and karaoke services. They provided popular music to sing and dance to.

There were a variety of quality items to bid on this year in the silent auction. Local companies, racquetball companies and individuals provided a wide range of merchandise and services. Many companies and individuals are sponsors donating money, gift certificates and merchandise to assist with expenses, awards and the silent auction. There are various levels of sponsorship including Gold sponsors (\$1,000+), Silver sponsors (\$500+), Bronze sponsors (\$250+) and Pink Racquet sponsors (\$100).

We have exceeded our fundraising goal five years in a row. As a result of this years tournament, we are donating another \$10,000 to the Peoria Memorial Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure bringing our 5 year donation total to \$44,200. Peoria’s Racquet for the Cure is a fun way to exercise and generate funds for the Cure!

You can find out more about Susan G. Komen for the Cure and Racquet for the Cure by linking to [www.komenpeoria.org](http://www.komenpeoria.org) and [www.racquetforthecure.com](http://www.racquetforthecure.com) . The foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died from breast cancer at the age of 36. Today, Komen for the Cure is an international organization with a network of more than 75,000 volunteers working through local Affiliates to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. A global leader in the fight against breast cancer, Komen for the Cure fulfills its mission through support of innovative breast cancer research grants, meritorious awards and educational, scientific and community outreach programs around the world.

Jim Maroon, Peoria RFTC Co-director  
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