

Choirs for Cancer support tops \$100,000

Choirs for Cancer fundraising has surpassed the Tanner Medical Foundation's goal of \$100,000.

As of Friday, \$101,557 had been raised through monetary and gift-in-kind donations, personal fundraising pages, concert sponsorships and ticket sales. That eclipses the Foundation's fundraising goal.

"We are overwhelmed by this tremendous community support," said Kathy Mathis, director of Tanner Medical Foundation. "Because of this generosity, more cancer patients can be helped, and more lives may be saved. We are so thankful to everyone who supported Choirs for Cancer."

All Choirs for Cancer proceeds assist local cancer patients with the unexpected costs of battling cancer, including treatment, medication and other expenses related to their cancer care.

"Even transportation to and from medical appointments can become a barrier to life-saving cancer treatment," said Dr. Richard Bland, a board-certified radiation oncologist with Tanner Radiation Oncology and medical operations leader for Tanner Cancer Care. "More and more patients are requesting this kind of assistance."

In response to this growing need, Dr. Bland, Dr. Bradley Larson, a board-certified medical oncologist with Northwest Georgia Oncology Centers and member of the patient care team at Tanner Cancer Care, and

Shellie Sherrod, director of Tanner Cancer Care, announced the launch of a new cancer patient transportation program at the Nov. 21 Choirs for Cancer concert.

"Thanks to everyone who supports Choirs for Cancer, Tanner's new cancer transportation program will help cancer patients overcome an avoidable obstacle to their care," said Bland. "This need can now be met."

As in past years, local business and civic organizations, families and individuals have been extremely generous in donating toward this project.

By the night of the event, nearly \$92,000 had been raised, representing a new record for the annual event. Inspired by this heartfelt support, Tanner Medical Foundation raised its goal to raise \$100,000 by Dec. 31. With just a few days remaining in 2013, the goal was surpassed, thanks to several local families.

Mathis said it was a special moment when she opened the envelope with the donation that brought the Choirs for Cancer total to \$100,000.

"I feel fortunate to

live in the kind of place where so many will come together to help others," said Mathis. "This simply could not have been possible without everyone who supported Choirs for Cancer by performing, sponsoring, donating or buying a concert ticket for this event. They are heroes to our patients."

The newly reformatted Choirs for Cancer concert took place on Nov. 21, with music luminaries such as Dove Award winner Babbie Mason, Homegrown Band and The Georgia Spiritual Ensemble. The event also featured outstanding performances by humorist Kenn Kington, The Tanner Physician Musicians, Terry Lowry, the Carrollton Cultural Arts Teen Theatre Program and the Choirs for Cancer Community Choir, led by Bryant Turner.

The fund will continue to collect money until midnight on Dec. 31. All donations are tax deductible and can be made online at www.ChoirsForCancer.org, by phone during business hours at 770-812-GIFT (4438), or by mail at Tanner Medical Foundation at P.O. Box 695, Carrollton, GA 30112.