



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Kingston “Bike for Cancer Care” Raised Over \$100,000**

Kingston, N.Y. – Oct. 27, 2011 – Over 400 riders turned out to show their support of the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike for Cancer Care** held on Sunday, September 18, 2011, to benefit the **Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund**. The event was held at Dietz Stadium in Kingston, and featured a Bike Rodeo for children, a family ride throughout historic uptown Kingston, and 25- and 50-mile rides throughout Ulster County. At the end of the day, riders and volunteers celebrated the success of raising just over \$100,000 at a finish line BBQ and awards ceremony.

Dan Gruner, the event chair, said his family started the fund to help patients and their families in need.

“My family founded the ride in memory of our mom after we lost her to cancer,” Gruner said. “We learned that there are so many people in our community who are fighting cancer alone, or when diagnosed, struggle with financial difficulties. Our mom would have wanted to help these people.”

Working in partnership with the Gruner Family and the Cancer Center at Benedictine Hospital, a member of HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley, the Benedictine Health Foundation established the fund in 2004 to aid in the treatment, care, and support of cancer patients in financial need. The Fund provides financial assistance to eligible cancer patients who are residents of Ulster County regardless of the facility where they receive treatment, and for residents of neighboring Hudson Valley Counties who are receiving cancer treatment within Ulster County. Since the Fund was established in 2004, the fund has assisted over 725 patients by providing gift cards to purchase groceries and gas, and cancer treatment products including prostheses, wigs, and nutritional products.

The Gruner Family and the Benedictine Health Foundation would like to extend special thanks to our Platinum Sponsors: River Radiology, Cumulus Media, Murphy Healthcare Corporation, and Hannaford Supermarkets; Gold Sponsors: Affiliated Pathology Services, Anita Williams Peck, Rondout Savings Bank, Stewart's Shops, Timely Signs of Kingston, and Ulster Savings Bank; Silver Sponsors: Ozzie and Kathy Beichert, Colonial Roofing & Siding, Gillette Creamery, MVP Healthcare, Ryan and Ryan Insurance Brokers, Inc. & Erie Insurance Group, Rhinebeck Savings Bank, The Valley Group, Elizabeth Tapen, MD, and New York Communications Company, Inc, and Woodcrest Communities.

**About Benedictine Health Foundation**

The Benedictine Health Foundation supports the healthcare programs, services, and facilities of Benedictine Hospital, a member of HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley®. For further information, contact Barbara Klassen, Executive Director, at (845) 334-3186.

**About HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley®**

HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley® is the alignment of Benedictine Hospital (150-bed acute care facility), Kingston Hospital (150-bed acute care facility), Margaretville Hospital (15-bed critical access facility), Mountainside Residential Care Center (82-bed skilled nursing facility) and Woodland Pond at New Paltz (continuing care retirement community). As the parent organization, HealthAlliance provides a unified governance structure, while still allowing each hospital to continue as a separate and distinct corporation. The goal of HealthAlliance is to strengthen the quality of care and bring forward enhanced technology to serve the present and future healthcare needs in the Hudson Valley. HealthAlliance and its affiliate facilities are committed to providing compassionate, patient-centered care and ensuring patient safety, privacy and dignity to all. For further information about HealthAlliance visit our website at [www.HAHV.org](http://www.HAHV.org).

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