

Letter: 'Beau2019s Buddies' fundraiser a success

Published October 6, 2008

The Board of Directors of **Beau's Buddies** Cancer Fund would like to thank the sponsors, merchants, volunteers and the almost 500 supporters of our inaugural dinner/auction and golf tournament held Sept. 21-22. The overwhelming interest in supporting our events, the proceeds of which will enrich the lives of patients and their families actively fighting cancer in the greater Greenville area, show that our motto of "Friends Helping Friends" typifies the generous spirit of our community. Our appreciation is deep and heartfelt to each and every person who made the weekend successful and enjoyable. The dinner, auction and golf tournament raised more than \$130,000.

In keeping with "Friends helping Friends," **Beau's Buddies** Cancer Fund looks forward to dispersing these funds locally in the coming months toward cancer-related projects and activities that benefit eastern North Carolina residents. In short, we aim to make a difference in our backyard with the express intent of no funds leaving this region.

Cancer is a major health problem in North Carolina, and the diagnosis of cancer is a frightening one. Nationally, cancer claims a life every minute. Cancer has recently become the leading cause of death in our state. In 2008, an estimated 40,000 North Carolinians will be diagnosed with cancer, and 17,000 lives will be lost. It is estimated by 2050, due to aging and state population growth estimates, an estimated 80,000 North Carolina residents will be diagnosed each year. In the coming years, we hope with your support to plan future events that will continue to raise cancer awareness and to always emphasize our motto "Friends helping Friends."

JOHN GIBBS, MD, Ph.D.

board member

Beau's Buddies Cancer Fund

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