



For Immediate Release

Contact:
Barbara Klassen
Executive Director
Benedictine Health Foundation
(845) 334-3186
bklassen@benedictine.org
www.benedictine.org

**Bike for Cancer Provides Direct
Financial Support to Cancer Patients**

Kingston, N.Y. —Aug. 13, 2009 – *The Sixth Annual Bike for Cancer Care* to benefit the *Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund* will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2009. The event will start and finish at Ulster Savings Bank on Schwenk Drive in Kingston. The event features a 5-mile family ride and a 25- and 50-mile ride throughout Ulster County. Riders and volunteers will enjoy breakfast, fully supported rest stops, a BBQ lunch and ice cream at the end of the ride donated by Hannaford Supermarkets and Gillette Creamery. Prizes and awards are given to the top fundraisers.

The *Rosemary D. Gruner Memorial Cancer Fund*, in partnership with the Thomas A. Dee Cancer Center at Benedictine Hospital and the Benedictine Health Foundation, provides financial assistance to cancer patients undergoing treatment in Ulster County who are in financial need. The fund provides for products and services not covered by medical insurance, such as nutritional products, prostheses, and gift cards to purchase groceries and gas.

“On July 28th of last year, I was diagnosed with lung cancer. I had just started a new job and was not yet eligible for benefits. Shortly after my diagnosis, I was forced to take leave from my employment. Everywhere I turned for help, I ran into a road-block until I found the Rosemary D. Gruner Fund. Always being an independent person, asking for help does not come easy for me. When the envelope arrived with gas and grocery cards, I felt as though I was getting my independence back. I was able to purchase so many items that people often take for granted. The Gruner Fund opened my eyes and renewed my faith in

our society. It brought me comfort and allowed me to focus on my healing. To receive a “gift” from people who don’t even know me has touched me deeply,” said Al Hackbarth of Hurley, N.Y.

For further information on the Bike for Cancer Care, visit www.bikeforcancer.org, or call the Benedictine Health Foundation at (845) 334-3017 or Dan Gruner at (845) 417-1865. The event is sponsored by River Radiology, Cumulus Media, Ulster Savings Bank, Colonial Roofing, Timely Signs, Hannaford Supermarkets and Rondout Savings Bank, and Anita Williams Peck.

###

105 Mary’s Avenue Kingston, N.Y. 12401 Phone: (845) 334-3034 Fax: (845) 334-4781