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Swim clubs to compete in cancer fundraiser

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When he was a ninth-grader at Grimsley High School in Greensboro and a member of its swim team, John Dewey was diagnosed with melanoma. He underwent treatment, and then resumed swimming his sophomore year. His junior year, he won the state championship in the 100-yard freestyle.

But Dewey’s cancer returned his senior year. Although he was not able to swim, he assisted the team and was offered a full scholarship at N.C. State University by its swimming coach. Dewey died in 1970, the spring of his senior year at Grimsley.

In 1973, Bob Sawyer, the long-time swimming coach at Grimsley and at the Greensboro Swimming Association, launched a citywide swim event in memory of Dewey to raise money for cancer research. The event raised \$3,000.

Since 1988, the effort has been known as “Swim for Cancer” and has raised a total of more than \$2.5 million for the American Cancer Society. It is the charity’s longest-running fundraising campaign and the largest fundraising swim event in the U.S.

To raise money, members of the 23 local clubs in the Greensboro Swimming Association swim laps and participate in activities ranging from car washes and lemonade stands to babysitting and parties.

The annual effort culminates each year at a “City Meet” that includes swimmers, coaches, volunteers and



Marlo Thomas

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ANDRII IURLOV
swimming in waterpool with blue water 2

representatives from the American Cancer Society.

This year’s meet will be held July 9 – 11 at the Greensboro Aquatic Center.

In June, the Blue Dolphins swim team at Greensboro Country Club aims to raise \$50,000 during its 27th-annual Swim for Cancer event, bringing the total it will have raised to more than \$1 million and making it the first swim team in the U.S. to raise that amount for the American Cancer Society.

To support the swim team and help meet the goal, Greensboro Country Club is undertaking clubwide programs to get its entire membership involved.

Special fundraising activities at the club in June include a golf tournament, tennis event, fitness event, “Breakfast Fighting Cancer”

and a family evening of food and entertainment.

Women to Women event to feature actress, activist Marlo Thomas

Marlo Thomas, the philanthropist, activist, author and actress, will be the special guest speaker at the sixth annual Women to Women Celebration Luncheon on Oct. 19 at Joseph S. Koury Convention Center.

Thomas is national outreach director for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, which was founded by her father, Danny Thomas.

In 2004, she created the hospital’s annual Thanks and Giving campaign, an annual holiday fundraising program that has raised more than \$500 million to date.

The Women to Women fund, an endowed grantmaking fund at The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro that focuses its support on issues involving local women and families, has met its initial goal of \$3 million goal and is working to raise another \$2 million.

Once all pledges of the new \$5 million goal have been fulfilled, the fund is expected to generate \$200,000 a year in grant support.

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