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News Release

Cancer Survivors Celebrate Life at Conference

SALT LAKE CITY – Utahns who’ve lived to tell their cancer stories met today at the 4th annual Cancer Survivorship Conference. They are among the estimated 10 million cancer survivors in the United States – a number that has grown over the years as cancer treatments have improved.

With the theme “Thriving and Celebrating Life,” the free event was held at the University Marriott and hosted by the Utah Cancer Action Network (UCAN). Featured keynote speakers included three-time cancer survivor Linda Hill and Michael Siler, director of government relations for the Utah Chapter of the American Cancer Society (ACS CAN).

"This conference is a wonderful opportunity to not only celebrate cancer survivors but also recognize the important role played by their caregivers," said Siler.

"This year’s event was particularly exciting for ACS as we talked with survivors and caregivers about the impact of advocacy in cancer research, treatment, and screening,” Siler added. “Survivors gained a new awareness and the tools they need to speak out about cancer-related issues.”

The family of renowned outdoor enthusiast Doug Miller was honored at the conference and awarded the Julien Puzey Quality of Life Award for their willingness to speak out about cancer prevention and the impact the disease has on the community.

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Page 2 of 2 - Cancer Survivors Celebrate Life at Conference

Conference attendees were treated to a performance of “A Slight Discomfort: A One Man Play” by Paul Kiernan. Written by University of Utah English professor and prostate cancer survivor Jeff Metcalf, the play is humorous take on his struggle with the disease. Metcalf answered questions and spoke one-on-one with fellow survivors after the performance.

“As cancer survivors, we know firsthand how devastating battling cancer is and how it impacts you physically, emotionally, and financially,” said Lynette Hansen, UCAN Quality of Life committee member and cancer survivor. “Cancer Survivorship Day gives us the chance to talk with others about both dealing with the struggles of cancer and celebrating each new day.”

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