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**FAIRWAY TO LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$8,000 FOR BASSETT
HEALTHCARE'S BOB SIMON/LORETTA ANAGNOST PATIENT ASSISTANT FUND**

Donation honors memory of Mary Pugliese Murdock, Bassett nurse

Cooperstown, N.Y. - In May 2003, Mary's Team was created in honor of Mary Pugliese Murdock, a Cooperstown native who died from a rare form of uterine cancer one month earlier. As a dedicated registered nurse at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, and a volunteer and then a staff member for the Cooperstown Central School District, Mary was beloved.

"Mary touched everyone who knew her," said Rose Pugliese Dorsman, her sister. "Family, friends, neighbors, former Bassett patients, students – everyone who met Mary loved and respected her."

Mary's Team began raising funds to memorialize Mary and join the fight to eliminate cancer as a major health issue by walking in Cooperstown's annual "Relay for Life. In 2007, Mary's Team changed venues, leaving the relay track for the golf course. "Relay for Life" became "Fairway to Life." As a reflection of the esteem Mary is still held in, local merchants, friends and family donated money, prizes and time to assure that the fund-raiser was a success. The first annual "Fairway to Life" golf tournament, with the participation of 78 golfers, was held on Sunday, May 25, at the Otsego Golf Club, Springfield Center, and raised \$8,000.

Wanting to give back to the community where Mary was born, raised her family and dedicated her life, Mary's Team designated the proceeds of the Fairway to Life Golf Tournament to the Bob Simon/Loretta Anagnost Patient Assistance Fund. The fund helps ease the financial burdens of Bassett cancer patients and their families who are in need, allowing them to focus their energies on healing.

During the tournament, many shared their personal stories about Mary and of loved ones who had been touched by cancer. Those who had died were mourned, those who are still fighting were encouraged and those who have won their battle with the dreaded disease were honored.

Dr. William J. Richtsmeier, director of the Bassett Healthcare Regional Cancer Program and the Louis Busch Hager Cancer Center, recalled that many of the staff members at the Cancer Center remember Mary fondly. "She was a loving and caring woman and also a nurse who knew good patient care and how to improve a patient's quality of life," he said.



To honor the late Mary Pugliese Murdock, a Cooperstown native and Bassett nurse, the 2008 "Mary's Team Fairway to Life Golf Tournament" raised \$8,000 for Bassett Healthcare's Bob Simon/Loretta Anagnost Patient Assistance Fund.

Bassett Healthcare is a member of the NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System, and a leading provider of health services in the central New York region, offering quality primary and specialty care services targeted to address this region's health care needs. For more information about Bassett, visit www.bassett.org.