

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$12,000 GRANT FROM KENLOU FOUNDATION SUPPORTS ACQUISITION OF EARLY DETECTION CANCER SCREENING COACH FOR BASSETT HEALTHCARE

Cooperstown, N.Y. – “Last year, our independent family foundation made its first gift to the Friends of Bassett specifically to help Bassett’s Regional Cancer Program acquire a new cancer early detection and screening coach,” explained Dana Sherry-Swierkos. “My husband John and I were motivated by the fact that many cancer deaths – as many as 12,000 annually in New York State alone – are preventable. Early detection and preventive education help limit the impact of cancer, so this year we made a second contribution of \$12,000 to help the Friends get nearer to its \$841,756 goal to fund the cost of equipment for the coach.”

“The Friends is most thankful to Dana Sherry-Swierkos and John Swierkos and the KenLou Foundation for their steadfast support,” said Scott A. Barrett, executive director of the Friends. “According to the American Cancer Society, lack of access to medical care is a major obstacle to reducing death rates. The new RV-type coach will extend the Regional Cancer Program’s multidisciplinary cancer prevention and early detection and treatment services throughout nine, largely rural counties, Chenango, Delaware, Fulton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego and Schoharie,” he explained. “From digital mammography to private exam space for prostate and cervical cancer screenings to bone densitometry, the coach will be able to travel farther and reach more sites, enabling staff to provide more outreach and screenings that were previously unavailable in these communities.”

For several types of cancer, early detection greatly increases the likelihood that treatment will be successful and increases the treatment options that are available to people with cancer. For example, the five-year survival rate for breast cancer that is in its earliest stages is 97.0 percent, while at later stages it is only 23.3 percent. Tests for cervical and colorectal cancer can identify precancerous conditions that can be treated before they develop into cancer, essentially preventing disease from occurring. Preventive education informs people of what they need to do to reduce the risk of cancer through the adoption of healthy lifestyles, reduction of exposure to high-risk environmental factors and better understanding of cancer genetics.



Marianne Stalteri, N.P., cervical cancer screening coordinator at Bassett Healthcare’s Regional Cancer Program (center), accepts a \$12,000 donation from John Swierkos and Dana Sherry-Swierkos of the KenLou Foundation toward the acquisition of a new cancer early detection and screening coach.

