



For Immediate Release

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***Take The CT Challenge on July 30, 2011
7th Annual Bike Ride Funds Care for Cancer Survivors in Connecticut***

(Stamford, CT) Registration is open for the 2011 CT Challenge Bike Ride, taking place July 30, 2011, on the beautiful grounds of the Fairfield County Hunt Club in Westport, CT.

Cancer survivors will attest that support is critical at every step in the fight against cancer. But as is often the case when treatment ends, survivors are left to figure out how to make the transition back to their everyday lives. They need the specialized care of unique survivorship programs to transition back to a healthy active life. That's the kind of specialized care the CT Challenge funds throughout the state, with monies raised through the CT Challenge Bike Ride.

"Most people don't realize that after a person is diagnosed with cancer and undergoes the radical treatments of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation that they are forever changed. Even if they make it through, which happily over 67% do, their bodies are different," explains Bob Mazzone, Executive Director of the CT Challenge. "Developing and funding resources that help cancer survivors live longer, happier, healthier lives is our mission. And none of this would be possible without the Bike Ride. We're grateful to all the riders and event volunteers who make it happen, and we hope to see a record number turn out for this year's ride."

Peter Cutler, who will be riding in his fifth CT Challenge as the captain of Team Noble Cause, credits a bike ride several years ago with saving his life.

"The very hill that CT Challenge riders will pass over may in fact have saved my life. It was after a bike ride with my wife and children in Greenfield Hill that I noticed I was unusually winded and unable to keep up with my family. This was the impetus that prompted me to get a physical, the very one that diagnosed me ultimately with colon cancer. At the time I was 38, had two children ages 2 and 4 and a beautiful wife. I was busy building my career, my family and my life. I didn't have time to feel tired or sick, but who wasn't tired with all of those responsibilities. It wasn't until I couldn't physically pedal up Bronson Road that I decided to investigate."



It has been a long road but Peter is now cancer free and he and his wife Dianna have made the CT Challenge cancer survivorship programs their cause.

“This year I will ride for my mother, a cancer survivor. I will ride for my friends that have been diagnosed with cancer. I will ride for the support of all of my friends and family who helped me in my battle and for everyone who has been touched by this horrible disease. I will ride to create awareness and to create solidarity for the cancer survivor community. Cancer deaths continue to decline, which means more survivors than ever before need help to manage the long-term effects of their treatments. I will ride to keep that statistic going! But mostly I will ride for the future. I will ride for the promise of better cures, better treatment, better awareness and for someday I hope, a cure.”

This year, be one of the 1,000+ riders who will be riding to support the cancer survivors in their lives! The ride has something for everyone, riders of all ages and abilities, from the leisure to the serious cyclist. Participants choose their distance: 10, 25, 50, 75 or 100 miles through beautiful Connecticut countryside.

Ride as an individual, start a team, or form a corporate team. Riding as a team is great fun and corporate teams are terrific morale builders that promote employee wellness. This year’s Team Corporate Challenge participants include BMW, Pepsi, Pfizer, GE, Chemtura, Navigator and Consumer Reports, and Butterfield 8 to name a few.

Register by May 1st and get a free CT Challenge cycling jersey. Or you can design a custom jersey to promote your team, or company, along every mile of traveled road. Learn more about the bike ride at: <http://bike.ctchallenge.org>

BMW of Bridgeport, AMGEN and Williams Trading sponsor the 7th Annual CT Challenge Bike Ride.

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About the CT Challenge: The Connecticut Challenge was founded in 2005 to create supportive care resources for cancer survivors. The organization currently supports survivorship programs throughout the state through the CT Challenge Survivorship Network. The CT Challenge also provides research grants, sponsors an annual summit for medical professionals and promotes survivor education and awareness events. The website is a statewide resource where survivors can find out about the issues they may face and locate programs and services that can help them. To date more than \$5 million has been raised to support survivorship programs, positively impacting the lives of thousands of CT Cancer survivors. Learn more at CTChallenge.org.