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13th Annual Award of Hope Gala Helps Raise Close to \$700,000 to Support CINJ

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation Recognizes Pillars in CINJ Family and Cancer Community

New Brunswick, N.J., October 15, 2008 – During a spectacular evening filled with dinner, dancing and sparkling colors of the season, pillars of New Jersey’s cancer community were honored at the 13th Annual Award of Hope Gala and Benefit Auction for bringing their own “sparkle” to the lives of those who battle the disease. This month’s event hosted by the Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) Foundation and held at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, helped raise nearly \$700,000 to support cancer research, patient care and education programs at CINJ. CINJ is a Center of Excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Honored with the “Award of Hope” was Metuchen resident Malcolm Wernik, a two-time cancer survivor and CINJ patient. According to Paula Hunchar, executive director of the CINJ Foundation, “Mal is a major donor, who takes pride in sharing his love of CINJ with his friends and encouraging support. He is always quick to point out that ‘friend-raising’ comes before fundraising.” In accepting his award, Mr. Wernik described how he could best tell the story of CINJ by actually bringing someone to the center to have lunch with facility leaders. Those little lunches have grown into an annual gathering known as “Mal’s Pals,” which has raised more than a million dollars through the years for CINJ.

Also presented with the “Award of Hope” were Vivian and William Wood Allen of Princeton. The Allen’s have been involved with CINJ for many years with Mrs. Allen serving as an active volunteer for the Award of Hope Gala Committee and Mr. Allen as a Foundation Board of Trustees member.

The “Leadership in Patient Care” Award was given to Bruce G. Haffty, MD, of Franklin Township, who is an associate director at CINJ and a professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In three short years since arriving at CINJ, Dr. Haffty has focused on building a specialized infrastructure at both CINJ and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital to provide patients with superior care using cutting-edge radiation technology with a focus on several subspecialties.

Leah Scaramuzzo, MSN, RN, C, AOCN, of Hazlet, who is an oncology education specialist at CINJ, also was recognized with the “Leadership in Patient Care” Award for playing an integral part in providing the most comprehensive education to CINJ’s patients and families about their disease and treatment.

The CINJ Foundation Board of Trustees “Award for Distinguished Leadership and Achievement” was presented to former CINJ Deputy Director Arnold B. Rabson, MD of Princeton, who is currently the Interim Senior Associate Dean for Research and the Interim Director of the Child Health Institute, both at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. During his 14-year tenure at CINJ, Dr. Rabson is credited with playing a pivotal role in the establishment of CINJ’s basic research program.

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“The Foundation Board of Trustees holds these exceptional members of New Jersey’s cancer community in high regard,” said Leslie Logan Taylor, chair of the CINJ Foundation Board of Trustees. “They are dedicated as a collective to advance CINJ’s core mission of being an internationally acknowledged leader in research, treatment, prevention and education.”

Since its inception, the Award of Hope Gala has raised nearly \$8.5 million dollars for cancer research, patient care and education programs at CINJ. The New Brunswick facility is celebrating 15 years of patient care this year and proudly holds the Comprehensive Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute. The designation – which is awarded to institutions for excellence in patient care, research and other criteria – is a prestigious honor held by only 40 other facilities in the country.

The CINJ Foundation raises funds to support cancer research, treatment, prevention and education programs at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Gifts are received from corporations, foundations, individuals, special events and through planned gifts. To make a tax-deductible gift to the CINJ Foundation to benefit New Jersey’s only NCI -designated Comprehensive Cancer Center call 732-235-8614 or visit www.cinjfoundation.org.

About The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is the state’s first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer. CINJ’s physician-scientists engage in translational research, transforming their laboratory discoveries into clinical practice quite literally bringing research to life. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a center of excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. To support CINJ, please call the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation at 1-888-333-CINJ.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Network is comprised of hospitals throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important discoveries into the community. Partner Hospital: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital*, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (CINJ-Hamilton), Saint Peter’s University Hospital, Somerset Medical Center, Southern Ocean County Hospital, The University Hospital/UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School*, and University Medical Center at Princeton. *Academic Affiliate

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