

## LOCAL CANCER SURVIVOR WALKING FOR A GREAT CAUSE

By Ehren Goetz, Mammoth Hospital PR Assistant

On Saturday, October 11, 2008, local cancer survivor, Marge Papp, will walk from Mammoth Lakes to Tom's Place and back to Mammoth the following day to raise money giving back to a program that helped save her life. Her "Second Chance" walk will be raising money for Mammoth Hospital's Cancer Outreach Fund.



"Getting cancer is a life changing event," says Marge, who had support from friends, but at the time had no money. Marge had lost her father just one month prior to being diagnosed in April 2006 and had taken the last two years off work to care for him. Living in the rural community of Mammoth Lakes, cancer patients must often travel up to 300 miles for treatment. During her treatment, Marge put thousands of miles on her car traveling back and forth to Sacramento to receive specialized care.

"When you're fighting cancer, having even one more thing to worry about is almost too much to handle," says Marge "so any help I received financially was huge." The Cancer Outreach Program helps cancer patients like Marge cover the costs of travel by helping pay for gas, food, and lodging expenses as well as providing a support group for long-time survivors and newly diagnosed patients.

After a long, heroic battle and recovery, Marge is ready to give back to the program by raising money to give other cancer patients the same opportunity she had with her treatment. She's prepared to do the two-day walk from Mammoth Lakes to Tom's Place and back, asking people to donate what they can to sponsor her walk. "I figured I've got two good feet; I can do this," Marge said, who estimates the 36-mile round-trip walk should take around seven hours each day.

Marge is welcoming anyone willing to do sections of the walk with her for moral support. Her older brother, Charlie is flying down from Alaska to do part of the walk with her. "I hope it doesn't rain," she says, "but I have rain gear if it comes to it." Marge is hoping to make her Second Chance walk a yearly event and hopes to increase participation each year.

There will be a dinner held at Tom's Place on Sunday, October 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. for anyone who wants to attend with 10% of the proceeds going to the Cancer Outreach Program. Free dinner vouchers are available at Mammoth Hospital (Greg Bissonette, 924-4128), Turner Propane (Marge Papp, 934-6811), Footloose Sports, and Vons. Dinner vouchers must be presented to the server to receive the 10% donation. For questions or donations contact Greg Bissonette at 924-4128.