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## For Immediate Release

### HOPE IN BLOOM AT CAROL G. SIMON CANCER CENTER PINGRY SCHOOL STUDENTS PRESENT DAFFODILS TO CANCER PATIENTS

**MORRISTOWN, NJ MARCH 19, 2009** – Students from the Pingry School in Warren visited the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center at Morristown Memorial Hospital on Thursday to distribute about 400 daffodils and spread a little cheer to patients there as part of the American Cancer Society’s annual Daffodil Days event.

With spring just around the corner, the students handed out the daffodils, the first flower of the season, as a symbol of hope for all people facing cancer by raising funds and awareness to beat the disease. The American Cancer Society and the society’s Eastern Division Asian Initiatives, which includes Asian physicians and staff members at Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, purchased the potted flowers, called “Gifts Of Hope,” which were handed out to patients as they entered and exited through the atrium of the cancer center on Thursday.

The flowers are purchased by donors, to be sent or distributed to cancer patients, raising money that enables the American Cancer Society to offer free programs and services that help people fight cancer with courage and optimism, while providing physical and emotional support and financial information to ease the cancer experience.

“The donation of these flowers by the American Cancer Society and the Asian Initiatives are a vivid, beautiful expression of people’s kindness and desire to improve the lives of cancer patients,” said Mimi Gelbman, Coordinator of Volunteer services at the cancer center. “They are so appreciated by the patients, that people are thinking of them and making the effort.”

Shirley Holick, of Morris Township, a non-cancer patient who was receiving treatment at the cancer center’s infusion center, had been waiting for spring for her own daffodils to come up in her garden of various flowers and vegetables.

“I like them because they’re bulbs and come up on their own,” Holick said. “They’re just about everybody’s favorite, I think.”

Holick didn’t have to wait to see the flowers, brought to her chair by hospital volunteers and Pingry students.

“I think it was wonderful, it was very sweet,” Holick said.

(more)

T H E P A S S I O N T O L E A D

Shirley Bravo, of Allamuchy, another non-cancer patient being treated in the infusion center, said the gift of daffodils from the Pingry Students was just another in a long line of kind acts she has seen in the years of being treated at Morristown Memorial.

"I texted my daughter and I said to her that this was a wonderful start to a day and a wonderful way to begin spring," Bravo said. "This hospital does a wonderful job. They do everything for the comfort and care of their patients. It's strange to say, but it's actually a lovely experience."

Additionally, daffodil contributions provide the Society with much-needed dollars to fund groundbreaking cancer research, educate people about the importance of cancer prevention and early detection and advocate for meaningful public health policies that benefit the community. For more than 35 years, the Daffodil Days program has empowered people to make a difference in the fight against cancer. During the last 14 years, Daffodil Days has raised more than \$240 million in gross revenue to support the American Cancer Society's lifesaving mission to eliminate cancer as a life-threatening disease.

The Pingry students, senior Katie Salvaggio, freshman Elise Lang, both of Morris Township, and freshman Emily McCormick, of Basking Ridge, participated in the daffodil distribution as part of the school's branch of SMAC (Student Movement Against Cancer). SMAC has been involved in various fundraising activities over the past three years to work toward finding the cure, and also has donated its time to Morristown Memorial's National Cancer Survivor Day and plans on helping out at this event again in June.

Salvaggio, who founded the Pingry branch of SMAC, and who took part in Daffodil Days on her spring break, said she and her fellow SMAC members each had relatives affected by cancer, and looked forward to interacting with patients.

"I think that when you're in the hospital getting treated, it can get a bit lonely and not exciting," said Salvaggio, who volunteered for Daffodil duty during her school's spring break. "The patients are grateful for a little conversation, so that makes it rewarding."

The Carol G. Simon Cancer Centers at Morristown Memorial Hospital and Overlook Hospital are among the best cancer diagnosis and treatment centers in the nation. The Centers' specialties include brain cancer; breast cancer; men's cancers; women's cancers; lung cancer; gastrointestinal cancers, such as pancreatic cancer; melanoma and sarcoma; and pediatric cancers.

The Carol G. Simon Cancer Centers also offers a variety of free programs available to patients and their families along the cancer care continuum. These services are designed to help patients cope with their disease, enhance treatment and facilitate an understanding of the emotional challenges associated with a cancer diagnosis. Programs available include Mind Body programs, music therapy and nutritional counseling.

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