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Hope Grows Initiative Celebrates its 2nd Year

(NILES) – The Lakeland Health Foundation, Niles and the Niles-Buchanan YMCA have announced the date for their 2nd Annual Hope Grows fundraiser, which is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, at noon.

This initiative began in 2014 as a partnership to deliver a continuum of care to thousands of patients and families impacted by cancer. Hope Grows 2015 will continue to raise funds to support cancer screenings, treatment, follow-up care, and the **LIVESTRONG** program at the Niles-Buchanan YMCA, regardless of participants' ability to pay.

Those attending the May 7 luncheon at the Niles-Buchanan YMCA will see services in action, as the program will highlight the stories of those who have benefited from free screenings services, as well as physical and strength recovery in the **LIVESTRONG** program.

"I had not been a YMCA member until I joined the **LIVESTRONG** program," said Sarajane Pickles, a participant in the **LIVESTRONG** program. "I gained so much strength, endurance, and confidence in three short months. It changed my life!"

"The **LIVESTRONG** program changed my life in so many ways," said Becky Finn, another **LIVESTRONG** participant. "It made me physically stronger and able to do things I couldn't do, and helped me emotionally and psychologically."

"The first year's event was very successful, and we're very grateful that it sold out," said Regina Ciaravino, Grant Management and Annual Giving Consultant, Lakeland Health Foundations. "We're looking forward to building on that success, which will allow us to ensure that additional residents have access to services that may be perceived as out of their reach."

To become a sponsor of Hope Grows, purchase tickets to the luncheon, or make a donation of support, please contact the Lakeland Health Foundations at (269) 927-5145. Several sponsorship levels are available. Individual tickets are \$50; tables of eight are available with sponsorship levels of \$500 or more.

About the Niles-Buchanan YMCA

The Niles-Buchanan YMCA strengthens the foundations of our community through well-being and fitness, camps, swim, sports and play, and other activities for people of all ages, incomes and abilities. We are more than just a place to work out. At the Y, we help build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all with the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility at the heart of everything we do.

LIVESTRONG at the YMCA is a 12-week, small group exercise program designed for adult cancer survivors that focuses on improving physical, mental, and social health.

About the Lakeland Health Foundations

Founded in 1993, the Lakeland Health Foundation, Niles, serves the greater Niles community and is a part of the Lakeland Health Foundations. Since its inception in 1984, the Lakeland Health Foundations have distributed over \$25 million in gifts to improve and enhance medical care to thousands of people Lakeland serves. Gifts made to the Lakeland Health Foundations provide for the margin of excellence that characterizes patient care at Lakeland. Through provision of financial resources over and above revenues, the Foundations make possible additional investments in medical technology and equipment while expanding the knowledge of our professional staff, and supporting outreach services and health education for our community. To learn more about the Lakeland Health Foundations, call (269) 927-5143 or visit www.lakelandhealthfoundations.org

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