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Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser yields over \$750

Summary: The annual UMM/City of Morris October Breast Cancer Fundraiser helped to raise awareness and over \$750 for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure effort. This year, over 50 UMM student, staff and faculty volunteers, along with others from off campus, knitted and crocheted scarves and hats to sell in the Student Center.

(November 6, 2007)-by Whitney Pankonin – The October Breast Cancer Fundraiser is an annual event at the University of Minnesota, Morris that helps bring awareness to the campus and also raises money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure effort. This year, over 50 people helped organize the UMM fundraiser. UMM student, staff and faculty volunteers, along with people representing the City of Morris, knitted and crocheted scarves and hats to sell in the UMM Student Center. The Commission on Women provided a grant for supplies to help with the incredibly successful fundraiser this year.

Most of those who were involved with the fundraiser know family members or close friends who were, and are, affected by breast cancer.

“The fundraiser is an important part of the October Breast Cancer Month because it opens a door for healing, as well as celebrating life,” said UMM student Whitney Pankonin, one of the event’s organizers. “The fundraiser also brings awareness to the fact that not just women are affected by breast cancer. Men were able to get involved with the fundraising process and help open it up to the entire community.”

Hand-made scarves and hats were sold on campus October 24-26 to raise money for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Over three days, a total of \$753.05 was raised. With the help from so many devoted volunteers, this year’s fundraiser proved to be the most successful one to date.

“My mom has been cancer-free from breast cancer for five years now,” shared Pankonin, “and it is a blessing to know that so many people on the UMM campus and in the city of Morris are committed to finding a cure. The future of breast cancer research becomes brighter and brighter as the years go by and people lend a hand every October to make that future possible.”

Photo: Pankonin (right) receives a check for over \$750 from Sara Haugen, UMM Student Activities (photo by Melissa Weber, University Relations)

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