



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Contact: Ken Dey
(208) 381-2894 (office)
(208) 631-5322 (cell)
Deyke@slrnc.org

Annual Danny Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament Raises More Than \$350,000 for Cancer Research

Boise – St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute received a \$355,000 donation Thursday from proceeds raised at the annual Danny Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament.

Every August, for more than 30 years, golfers have gathered in Sun Valley to pay tribute to former Minnesota Twins shortstop Danny Thompson who died of leukemia in 1976 at the age of 29.

Started in 1977, the tournament is held each year at Sun Valley Resort and Elkhorn Golf Club. The tournament has raised more than \$10 million total for leukemia and cancer research.

The tournament raised \$710,000 this year. Proceeds from the tournament are divided equally each year between St. Luke's MSTI and University of Minnesota Cancer Research Center in Minneapolis.

With the latest donation, St. Luke's MSTI has received nearly \$5 million from the tournament. These funds have been leveraged with additional support to create a nationally recognized cancer research program. Last year, St. Luke's MSTI received \$365,000 from the tournament.

In 2006, St. Luke's MSTI was one of 12 community oncology practices in the country to receive honors from the American Society of Clinical Oncology for efforts to improve the care of people with cancer through participation in clinical trials, which are research studies conducted with patients to evaluate a new treatment, or drug, and develop better ways to treat individuals with a specific disease.

"The support from the tournament offer patients from throughout southwest Idaho and eastern Oregon the opportunity to participate in the trials that provide potentially lifesaving, cutting-edge, cancer treatments," said Dr. Thomas Beck, St. Luke's MSTI medical director.

In 2008, St. Luke's MSTI enrolled 99 patients in adult trials and 29 children in pediatric trials.

The most common cancer being treated at St. Luke's MSTI is breast cancer. More than 12 percent of the patients in clinical trials are breast cancer patients.

About Danny Thompson

Danny Thompson, an All-American baseball player with Oklahoma State, started his major league career with the Minnesota Twins in 1970. His love for baseball and desire to not give up kept him playing the game even after he was diagnosed with leukemia in 1974. During the 1975 season he led American League shortstops in batting average and played well enough that he had hopes of making the All-Star team. In 1976 he was traded to the Texas Rangers. He played his final game in October of that year and died 10 weeks later on Dec. 10.

About The Danny Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament

The inspiration for the golf tournament came from former teammate and Hall of Fame baseball player Harmon Killebrew, who retired from baseball in 1975, and former Idaho Congressman Ralph Harding. After retiring, Killebrew moved to Idaho and went into business with Harding. Killebrew wanted to do something to remember Thompson, and Harding suggested a golf tournament. The first tournament was held in 1977 and attracted celebrities and dignitaries including former President Gerald Ford and baseball legend Mickey Mantle.

About St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute

Founded in 1969, St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) has treated nearly 60,000 patients and is one of the Northwest's most respected cancer care centers providing the region's most advanced cancer care therapies with the added benefit of allowing patients to remain close to home. To find out more about St. Luke's MSTI visit www.stlukesonline.org

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