

9114 HNC Fund

Help for Head and Neck Cancer



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COURAGE UNMASKED TO UNVEIL NEW EXHIBIT, GALA IN REHOBOTH BEACH Fundraiser Uses Art to Breathe New Life into Symbols of Cancer and Grants Financial Aid to Patients

Rehoboth Beach, DE: On August 28, 2015 dozens of artists from across the country will unveil the latest installation of Courage Unmasked, a fundraising effort on behalf of head and neck cancer (HNC). Organized by the Help for Head and Neck Cancer Fund, or 9114HNC Fund, Courage Unmasked taps into the transformative power of art to turn symbols of illness into beacons of hope for the over 40,000 Americans diagnosed with oral or pharyngeal cancer this year. Using the plastic mesh medical masks that protect patients undergoing radiation treatment, artists create unique and inspiring works of art that will be on display for three weeks at the Rehoboth Art League beginning August 28, culminating in a gala fundraising auction on September 19.

“We all know that art has the power to inspire the human spirit,” said Sheila Bravo, executive director of the Rehoboth Art League, “and, as Courage Unmasked demonstrates, the human spirit is a great inspiration for art. We at the Rehoboth Art League are honored to host this collection of truly unique and wonderful pieces of art.”

This year’s Courage Unmasked auction benefits patients undergoing treatment for head and neck cancers at Beebe’s Tunnell Cancer Center, located near Rehoboth Beach in Lewes, Delaware. All of the proceeds from the auction will go directly to individuals who are struggling to make ends meet as a result of this devastating cancer.

“Events like Courage Unmasked are so important for our community,” said Judy Aliquo, President and CEO of Beebe Medical Foundation. “Not only do they raise important funds for patient care, but they give the entire community an opportunity to come together in support and celebration. We are thrilled to be participating in this event.”

Courage Unmasked, and the 9114HNC Fund, is the brainchild of artist and cancer survivor Cookie Kerxton. The event in Rehoboth Beach is the fourth installation and auction organized by 9114HNC, the previous events taking place in Washington, D.C. and Nashville, TN. To date, more than 300 artists have donated their time and efforts to transform the radiation masks into sculptures on display in private homes, offices and medical centers across the country. Importantly, over \$150,000 has been granted directly to patients in need.

“As an artist and a survivor of head and neck cancer (HNC), I know firsthand what it is like to spend time inside these masks. And then to see them transformed into powerful statements of survival is truly inspiring,” said Cookie Kerxton, founder and chair of 9114HNC. “In addition to creating awareness of the disease, the work being done through Courage Unmasked is truly making a difference in the lives of HNC patients, who often find that insurance does not adequately cover their medical expenses.”

Sponsors for CURB include Beebe Medical Foundation, Rehoboth Art League, Village Improvement Association and 9114HNC.ORG. For sponsorship opportunities please call 202-248-7159 or email jon@jonathangwillen.com.

Tickets for the Courage Unmasked Gala on Saturday, September 19 are available for purchase by visiting www.9114hnc.org or calling 202-248-7159. Additionally, Courage Unmasked will host a preview of the masks for members of the press on Friday, August 28, 2015 at the Rehoboth Art League in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. 5-7 pm. Please RSVP to georgina@jonathangwillen.com

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