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Contact: Tara Studley, Development Manager

Maine Children's Cancer Program

STUDLT@mmc.org, (207) 662-6274

Vacation in Italy and African Photo Safari Highlight Unique Fundraiser to Help Maine Children Fight Cancer

*Maine Children's Cancer Program and Portland Sunrise Rotary Club present
"Party With a Purpose," — food and wine social and charitable auction*

For the past 18 years, the Portland Sunrise Rotary Club has teamed up with the Maine Children's Cancer Program (MCCP) to provide children in the region with access to the best pediatric cancer treatments available. MCCP, the pediatric oncology program of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center, is Maine's premier treatment center for children diagnosed with cancer and blood disorders.

On Wednesday, February 3rd, from 5:30 – 8:30 PM, at DiMillo's on Portland's waterfront, "Party with a Purpose" will feature a spectacular buffet, courtesy of the DiMillo family and Nappi Distributors, along with some of the most valuable and alluring auction items in the event's history.

Highlights of the event's live auction include a 7-day stay at a 17th Century Italian home in a hilltop village on the border of Tuscany and Umbria, a 6-day South African Photo Safari in the Zulunyana Wildlife Refuge, a dinner cruise for 16 aboard *Iroquois*, a 56' classically restored motor yacht, valuable diamond jewelry items, and other unique experiences and get-a-ways. There will also be dozens of additional valuable items featured in the silent auction and raffle.

"We've gone all out this year to make this the most exciting fundraising event we've done to date," said Michael Nazemetz, president of the Portland Sunrise Rotary Club. "Our members have devoted tremendous time and talent to help support the incredibly important work of Maine Children's Cancer Program, he added.

Tickets for "Party With a Purpose" are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Information is available at: MMC.org/MCCPBenefit

MCCP has three primary areas of focus: to provide children with access to the best pediatric cancer treatments currently available, to support the entire family through their

journey with childhood cancer, and to participate in clinical research which is moving the world closer to a cure.

“MCCP fills a great need in our state, since there are approximately 50-60 children in Maine who are newly diagnosed with cancer each year. There are approximately 200 in active treatment at any time,” according to Tara Studley, Philanthropy Manager for the Maine Children’s Cancer Program. With a team that includes five pediatric oncology/hematology physicians, specialized nurses, social workers, research associates and a therapy dog, MCCP offers a wealth of resources to young patients and their families in a closer-to-home setting.

Portland Sunrise Rotary is known for its dedication to service, both in its community and around the world. The club has helped build a bridge in Nigeria that allows children in a rural village to attend school, helped provide safe access to clean water in rural Western China, and provided crutches and mobility equipment to polio survivors in Africa. Closer to home, the club has provided new winter coats for students in need at Portland High School and Presumpscot Elementary School, built new benches around Portland’s Back Cove Trail, cooked meals for families with sick children at the local Ronald MacDonald House, and raised funds annually for the Maine Children’s Cancer Program.

Portland Sunrise Rotary Club meets every Thursday at 7:15 AM at the Cumberland Club, 116 High Street, in Portland. For more information about Rotary:
PortlandSunriseRotary.org

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