

News release

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Contact: Norm Bower

Email: normbower@mchsi.com

Phone: 563-349-0469

Fundraiser for Cancer Research

Beth Calabotta Swim Challenge Sept. 2 at Davenport West High Pool

The Beth Calabotta Swim Challenge will be held at Davenport West High Swim Pool on Sept. 2, starting at 7 a.m. Participants in the swim challenge have the opportunity to complete a 1-mile, 5k- or 10k-swim. The suggested donation to participate is \$25, with 100% going to metastatic cancer research. West High is located at 3505 W. Locust Street in Davenport.

The Cancer Couch Foundation (www.thecancercouch.com) has agreed to match dollar for dollar all proceeds raised up to \$1,000 and that amount will then be doubled again. The Dana Farber and Memorial Sloan Kettering Foundation funds will also match donations from the swim challenge. Additionally, Beth Calabotta's parents (Robert and Mary Jo Godwin of Bettendorf) will be matching funds raised up to \$1,000. Therefore, if the event raises \$2000, there will actually be \$8000 going to the Cancer Couch Foundation for metastatic cancer research.

Beth Calabotta was a 1985 Davenport West graduate and swimming stand-out who died of metastatic cancer in March 2017. After her very active and successful high school career, she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Iowa with a degree in chemical engineering in 1989. Her distinguished 25-year career with Monsanto Corporation included eight U.S. patents and more than 30 professional presentations worldwide. She spoke to congressional leaders regarding the importance of funding for metastatic cancer research, and inspired many others as she continued to train and compete at swimming events. Beth was resilient, courageous and determined to live every day by making a difference.

For those interested in donating or registering for the event, visit: www.iowamasters.org and find the application on the list of upcoming events. Or call Ruth Johnson in Davenport at 563-323-7316.

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Beth Calabotta Swim Challenge

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The Cancer Couch Foundation was created in 2015 by Rebecca Timlin-Scalera, Ph.D., following her own diagnosis of breast cancer. A neuropsychologist, she resolved to take a stand for those living the disease through her Cancer Couch blog, then by raising money for research through the non-profit foundation. The privately funded, volunteer-managed



foundation puts 100% of donations to work directly for patients with MBC. The foundation's goal is to fund cutting edge research for advancements in metastatic breast cancer treatment at two of the world's leading cancer centers, The Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Dr. Eric Winer of Farber was so enthused about this mission, he pledged that the institution will match dollar for dollar every donation made by The Cancer Couch Foundation. Sloan Kettering has followed suit and agreed to match donations up to \$50,000. Dr. Timlin-Scalera writes her blog at <http://thecancercouch.com/> from the perspective of a psychologist turned patient with advice on coping through adversity by finding humor and gratitude in ordinary moments.

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