



2013 Wee One Event Recipient Selected Eric Peters, Superintendent at North Links

Once again, ‘one of our own’ has been visited by hardship through a life threatening medical event. Superintendent at North Links Golf Course, Eric Peters, was recently diagnosed with cancer.

Here is an excerpt from a note sent by his family in May as posted on Caring Bridge:

“A few months ago, Eric’s back really began to bother him. He fell on the ice a couple times over the winter so we were sure he had pulled a muscle or bruised a rib. He visited a chiropractor

a few times and even tried getting a professional massage but nothing seemed to bring relief so he finally decided it was time to see a doctor. Upon the first visit, the doctor took an x-ray and determined that he had pneumonia but also saw something on the x-ray that she wanted to recheck after he had finished up with his antibiotics. She also ordered a CT scan to rule out blood clots in the lung. This was negative.

10 days after his initial x-ray, he returned for a second and the “suspicious” area in his right lung was still there. Eric returned the following day

for a PET scan. On May 3rd, the results of the PET scan came in and the initial diagnoses was that Eric has cancer. The areas it was found are: right lung, 2 vertebrae, 2 ribs, a spot near his pelvis, and possibly lymph nodes. Our family was totally shocked and feels like the rug has been pulled out from under our feet. “

Thank goodness for the Wee One Foundation and their support of Eric during his time of need. Shortly after hearing of his challenges, the Wee One Foundation sent him a check to help ease some of the burden he and his family were facing. ‘Industry peers helping their peers’, is exactly the intent when the Wee One Foundation was initiated in 2004.

For the last three years the MGC-SA has been supporting a local event to raise funds for this cause. And unfortunately each year there has been a request for access to these reserves as one of our fellow partners in the golf course industry has fallen victim to a medical crisis.



The Peters, Eric’s number one support team!

Eric shares in June:

“Some days are good and some days are bad but how is that different from life without cancer right? Most days are pretty good. I have more energy with every week so I’ve been able to get out and enjoy life more and more. Every day I set my own personal record for most consecutive days lived, so that’s cool.

I haven’t had a Doctor’s appointment in quite a while so it will be interesting when I do finally go in on August 9th. On the 9th, I will have blood drawn to check liver functions among other things, a brain scan, and chest and abdomen scan. I’m so curious to see what this pill is doing to the cancer. I’ve had some odd headaches when I stand up or bend over so pray that they are a result of the cancer going away instead of the

opposite. Another side effect that I hope gets better is my appetite. I used to LOVE food. I enjoyed cooking and eating and now I dread it. I know I have to eat and



On a good day with Wee One Committee Members John Meyer, Tom Proshok and good friend Andy Keyes.

eat healthy but nothing looks or tastes good. Even my favorite foods taste disgusting. I really miss eating and feeling healthy.

Thanks to everyone that has been so encouraging through this. It has been overwhelming to see the support and it makes me wonder if I would be as thoughtful or compassionate if the rolls were reversed.

Not much more to report until after my appointment on the 9th.”

This year Eric will be the beneficiary of funds generated at the annual Minnesota Wee One Event. Please help the Wee One Foundation support Eric and others as they are challenged with these unanticipated events in their lives. Whether you choose to become a title or tee sign sponsor, join as an annual member of the Foundation, or come

out to play on October 7th at Brackett’s Crossing Country Club, your contributions will serve someone in our industry when they need the help most. Unfortunately next year at this time we will once again be holding a tournament to support somebody else. Isn’t it nice to know that our industry chooses to help themselves in times of crisis?

In early August Eric’s wife wrote on Caring Bridge:

“Yesterday we first met with the surgeons so that they could evaluate his back and check his rod/screws. They were very pleased with what they saw and gave Eric the “go-ahead” to pursue any physical activities that he feels comfortable with(biking, running, swimming, lifting). There are really no limitations as long as Eric is listening

to his body and taking it easy when necessary. For a very active guy, this was very good and encouraging news.

While we were meeting with the surgeons, Eric's file was pulled up on the computer and Dr. Rose stated that he didn't want to "let the cat out of the bag" for our oncologist later, but the file stated that the tumor in his lung had "marked improvement". This was obviously very good news, but Dr. Rose wanted to save the details for our oncologist to go over. We kinda feel like he knew more of the details, as he was smiling and clearly happy for us. A definite change in his demeanor from our previous visits with him when it was all serious and bad news.

After this appointment we went to grab something for lunch. Right outside of Mayo in downtown Rochester, every Thursday in the summer there is live music and all kinds of food tents. A real party atmosphere. We wandered around and found something to eat and sat down to people watch and listen to the music for a bit. It was a nice little break outside of the clinic

Back to the clinic to meet with the oncologist. She pulled up Eric's scans on her computer screen (with a scan from June and one from Wednesday side by side) and began going through them starting at about his neck and working

her way down. She pointed out an area that I had not realized was so infected before. Surrounding his esophagus was a cluster of infected lymph nodes. When we compared the June scan with this weeks, it was very obvious that a significant change had taken place.

She then scrolled the screen down so that we could look at this lungs. The scan from June showed a tumor about the size of an egg. The current scan..... the tumor is barely detectable! She stated that it seems like the cancer has practically melted away, disintegrated. We were speechless. I was thinking that if the tumor had shrunk 25%, maybe 50% then things would be looking good. But almost 100%?! I really don't know what else to say about that, no words can explain. Stunned. Awestruck".

Eric is not out of the woods. He and his family still face challenges none of us would like to fathom. Support from their peers, both financially and with well wishes, are important during the high and low points of the road they are traveling.

Save this date, October 7th and play golf with your friends at Brackett's Crossing. Join the Wee One Foundation. Sponsor or contribute a raffle prize. Send a card or email. Support, both large and small, is precious.