



Media Contact:  
Jennifer Stahl, Board Director / Communications Chair  
**The Wellness Community-Southern Connecticut**  
203 483 4227  
[twcsct@yahoo.com](mailto:twcsct@yahoo.com)

**THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY-SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT  
TO HOLD 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL WELLNESS CUP DISTANCE BOAT RACE  
BENEFITTING ITS FUTURE CENTER FOR CANCER SUPPORT**

***- LOCAL RESIDENTS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT THE OPENING OF  
THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY-SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE CENTER -***

**BRANFORD, CT – September 24, 2009** – The Wellness Community-Southern Connecticut (TWC-SCT) today announced that its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wellness Cup – a fundraising, distance boat race – will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009, with an awards ceremony and reception following on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at the Branford Yacht Club. All proceeds will benefit the opening of TWC-SCT's future center, which will service the counties of Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex and New London. The Wellness Community (TWC), now merged with Gilda's Club, is the largest provider of psychosocial cancer support in the United States, "As an avid supporter of The Wellness Community in Boston, I look forward to helping open a facility in Southern Connecticut," said Dr. Thomas Lynch, Director of the Yale Cancer Center, also a member of TWC-SCT's Professional Advisory Board. "Patients and their loved ones need a comfortable, home-like setting to participate in quality oncology educational programs and obtain emotional support in the Greater New Haven/Connecticut Shoreline area."

To open its doors, TWC-SCT needs to raise a minimum of \$500,000. TWC educational and support programs are designed to help all cancer patients, survivors and their loved ones in a comfortable setting. All services are FREE of charge with no insurance required.

"There is a serious unmet need for supportive services for people affected by cancer in the Greater New Haven/Connecticut Shoreline area," Loreen Brown, The Wellness Community-Southern Connecticut Chair, said. "TWC-SCT will address that need by providing people in this community with a place they can turn to for assistance."

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**The Wellness Cup**

The ECSA (East Coast Sailing Association) (dbl point) race will attract boats based from Fairfield to New London, CT. Participating boat crews will begin the race from Vicinity of R34 Cow & Calf off Branford harbor and courses will be chosen by the Race Committee. A shorter distance course may be chosen the day of the race, pending the wind and weather. Last year, a total of 17 boats participated in the race and took between five and eight hours to complete the course.

The awards ceremony and reception will take place the following day, Sunday, October 4, 2009, when all will be welcome at the Branford Yacht Club to enjoy live music, food and beverages, a silent auction and a mega raffle. Along with trophies for first, second and third in each class, awards and prizes will be presented to the top three individual fundraisers, as well as to the top fundraising boat. In last year's inaugural race, \$20,000 was raised with the help of captains, crew, sponsors and volunteers.

Tickets for the awards ceremony and reception are available online or on the day of the event for \$15. Children 10 and under are free.

For race and other information go to: [www.thewellnesscup.org](http://www.thewellnesscup.org).

For more information regarding TWC-SCT, please visit our website:

[www.thewellnesscommunity.org/sct/](http://www.thewellnesscommunity.org/sct/)

**About The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club**

In July 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club joined forces to become the largest provider of psychosocial cancer support in North America. The combined organization will be comprised worldwide of nearly 50 local affiliates, 12 affiliates in development and over 100 off-site and satellite locations.

Together, they will continue to provide free support, education and hope to all people affected by cancer by offering free professionally-led support groups, educational workshops, nutrition and exercise programs, and stress-reduction classes. The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club will empower individuals affected by cancer. For more information, visit [www.thewellnesscommunity.org](http://www.thewellnesscommunity.org).

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**About the Wellness Cup**

The Wellness Cup Regatta is a charitable, fundraising event with all proceeds to benefit The Wellness Community-Southern Connecticut, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit center currently in development. The Wellness Community /Gilda's Club is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones.

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