

Cancer Awareness Challenge

I am a member of the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association (IEHA). As a state organization we have partnered with Purdue University's Cancer Research Center to form the Purdue Cancer Research Endowment Fund. Through this endowment fund, the goal was to raise \$25,000.00 in 5 years. This fund was started in the fall of 2010. As of August 2011 the fund has a little over \$70,000.00. So there is no longer a 5 year deadline. They are continuing to raise additional funds to aid in Purdue's Cancer Research. Purdue University is one of the top 64 Cancer Research Centers in the nation. Their science research is what helps other universities with their clinical research. Together maybe we can put an end to cancer.

After hearing this information in a meeting I was very moved to do something. If you would just think about cancer and the faces in your life that are no longer with you and some that are now showing the signs of the pain and struggle that goes along with cancer. You will be amazed as I was at how this affects all of us. On my way home from the meeting my mind was a whirlwind of memories. Just thinking of all the family and friends who have cancer or who have died of some kind of cancer. The ideas would not stop. In my mind I was designing rugs and mats as I was driving and trying to figure out how can rug hooking be incorporated into raising funds for this research. Then I thought of the ATHA's "Seeing Red Challenge" and this idea struck me. I have been in contact with Purdue's top people who are involved with the endowment fund and have gotten ideas from them too. They think this is a great idea and have given me lots of things to help. One is the awareness ribbons information. There are **26** different colors for **26** different cancers. Another is the newsletters that they send out twice a year. If you are interested, please contact me and I will pass this information on to you.

I thought we could sell the mats to raise money, but then I thought that if you are making your mat in memory of someone you may not want to part with it. So I have been thinking of ways to just take donations where ever the mats may be exhibited and when we are done with the exhibition the mats will be sent back to their owner and the donations sent to Purdue Cancer Research Endowment Fund.

Basic guidelines for the mat challenge.

1. Try to be as creative and original as possible. If using a copyright pattern please specify designer.
2. Lavender is the color that represents all cancers. If possible try to use Lavender somewhere in your design.
3. Use any fiber, style and finishing technique.
4. The mat should measure 9" x 12" (Creativity is encouraged, but the size is important, because of exhibition and shipping purposes.)
5. Include a short written explanation of your mat, including the title, foundation, fibers and cuts used. In a paragraph, explain your inspiration, design and hooking process. (This will then be printed and displayed with your mat.)
6. By bring your mats to me or sending them, you will release your mat to appear in exhibits and the ATHA newsletter, listing you as the original designer (unless otherwise noted.)
7. Bring your mats to a Puckihuddlers meeting or send them to me. If you would like your mat mailed back to you, please send your address and \$5.50 for return shipping.

If you do not want your mat back and would like to donate it to the endowment fund we will arrange auction after we are finished exhibiting them. Please let me know what your wishes are.

Mail your mat on or before **March 15, 2012** to :

Cancer Mat Challenge
c/o Tracy Burns
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