

**NEWS RELEASE:**

For immediate distribution

March 25, 2009

**LAZAREX CANCER FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER**

**Danville, CA, March 25, 2009** – On Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Lazarex Cancer Foundation will launch the North Carolina chapter with a Lunch ‘n’ Learn event. The event will take place from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Duplin Winery, located at 505 North Sycamore Street, Rose Hill, NC 28458. Lazarex Cancer Foundation is a San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit that is dedicated to changing the face of cancer. Lazarex will be providing a complimentary lunch at the winery to introduce the organization to the community.

Lazarex Cancer Foundation began shortly after Mike Miller, a resident of Wallace, NC, received a clinical trial treatment for his pancreatic cancer. Through their experiences with Mike’s treatment his wife, Erin, and other family members vowed to eliminate the treatment hurdles presented to end-stage cancer patients who have already suffered the physical, emotional and financial burdens associated with cancer. Dana Dornsife, Lazarex President and sister to Erin Miller; Susan Sappington, Director of Development; and Erin Miller and Holly Webster, both Lazarex Board Members, will all be in attendance for this exciting introduction to the North Carolina community.

“It is our goal to provide resources to fill the gap that exists between when a patient is told they have no more hope and when they are truly done with their journey in life,” says Dana Dornsife. “We believe that the size of a patient’s checkbook should not stand between them and the choices they make or the treatments they need.” Lazarex supports cancer patients of all ages, from all walks of life, and all forms of cancer by providing them with resources to take advantage of medical breakthroughs today, because they may not have a tomorrow.

Additionally, to represent Ruth, Lazarex Cancer Foundation patient and North Carolina resident, Ruth’s daughter, Shay Thompson, will attend the event to speak on her mother’s behalf. Ruth is an inspirational fighter who refuses to let cancer take her spirit. In a recent letter to Lazarex, she wrote:

*I really appreciate your interest and I am so happy to report that, "I'm making excellent progress." My last PET scan indicates that my tumors are shrinking. I'm not experiencing many side effects, a bit of fatigue and a bit of dizziness, but this is also improving.*

*My doctor told me on July 25, 2008 that my cancer (pancreas) had recurred and I would have six to seven months to live. The only treatment that he could offer was more chemotherapy. This was proven not to work for me and he suggested that I contact the large hospitals to see if they could help.*

*My hundreds of hours of research turned out to be more of the same, chemotherapy, and this was not a solution for me.*

*As I look back on this experience I can't express how it feels to learn your life is over. It feels as if that was a lifetime ago. I spent day and night looking for treatments and found the Rexin-G clinical trial on the website [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov). I gave the info to my doctor and he said I must go, immediately, and not to wait.*

*This was a blessing as this January will be six months and my treatment is working. There was a patient in the clinic last week that has lived 10+ years following his treatment. This has given me hope that my treatment will extend my life.*

*I'm so deeply grateful to you and Lazarex Cancer Foundation for your generous assistance with my housing needs. I would not have been able to come to California for cancer treatment if it were not for your help.*

*I'm deeply grateful to you for being a vital part of helping to extend my life.*

*My Love, Ruth*

Following the lunch, Duplin Winery will also offer a complimentary wine tasting and tour. Individuals who wish to participate in the luncheon must RSVP by contacting Erin Miller at 910.285.2277 or [erinmiller01@embarqmail.com](mailto:erinmiller01@embarqmail.com) or Holly Webster at 910.271.5734 or [h2bq@aol.com](mailto:h2bq@aol.com).

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### **About Lazarex Cancer Foundation**

Lazarex Cancer Foundation provides resources for cancer patients who have been told they have no other options, but who are not yet done with their journey in life and refuse to give up now. We help patients with financial assistance to defray the costs associated with participation in FDA clinical trials. Additionally, we help patients navigate their clinical trial options and provide community education and outreach services. We build a bridge to hope, dignity and life for cancer patients and their families and we believe that together we can change the face of cancer. To learn more, contact us at 925.820.4517 or 877.866.9523 or visit [lazarexfoundation.org](http://lazarexfoundation.org).

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