

Stars came out for 'Lace Up for Leukemia'

Lace Up for Leukemia was March 6 at the New England Sports Center with guest stars including the graceful and elegant Nicole Bobek, who joined with award-winning skaters Melanie Lambert and Fred Palascak, and area skaters for the benefit of the Massachusetts Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

New this year was a hockey game with Black & Gold Legends - former Boston Bruins competing against Team Lace Up.

Created by Laura Dully, Lace Up for Leukemia is a labor of love that she started after her husband, Kevin, was diagnosed with leukemia almost 13 years ago.

"Despite some problems from his treatments, we are thrilled that he just passed his 11th year of remission," said Laura Dully. "The advances that have been made for leukemia patients in the past decade have been phenomenal. For example, there is now a new miracle drug, Gleevec, that patients with Kevin's type of cancer can take as a treatment option.

"I'd like to think that we helped play a little part in that success through the fund-raising from Lace Up."

The fund-raising event has raised more than \$400,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society that's mission is to find cures for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Lace Up for Leukemia is a pledge event with participants raising money by skating laps in the Skate-A-Thon. The afternoon full of activities also included a silent auction, costumed characters, face painting, massage and a skating exhibition.

The evening culminated with the "Survivor Lap" as survivors of leukemia skated around the rink to be joined with the skating stars for on-ice photographs.

During the Survivor Lap, Karen Fiore sang the event's signature song, "Hero."

Opportunities for autograph signing followed the event in the registration area.



STAFF PHOTOS BY MARY WENZEL

At the March 6 Lace Up for Leukemia fund-raiser at the New England Sports Center, Laura and Kevin Dully pose for a photo with their son, Andrew. Kelli (Wentzell) Hanle, formerly of Marlborough and now of Milford, was on hand to offer massages for a fee that was donated to the proceeds of the Lace Up event. In the chair is Ed Uhlman, therapist at "theracopia," massage therapy and wellness center, owned by Hanle, and located at 11 Main St. in Southborough.



STAFF PHOTO BY MARY WENZEL

Mary McGovern of Hudson, left, and Cheryl Tucker of Marlborough, were volunteers at the silent auction held in conjunction with the Lace Up for Leukemia. A variety of gift certificates and baskets were included in the offering.