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The Prouty Celebrates Milestone 30th Year by Raising \$2.33 Million in the Fight Against Cancer

Final tally expected to set record, push event toward \$15 million all-time mark.

Hanover, N.H. (July 9, 2011) – [The Prouty Bike Ride & Challenge Walk](#) today celebrated its 30th year by raising \$2.33 million – and counting – for [cancer research](#) and [patient services](#) at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

The total exceeds the \$2.18 million that was tallied by the afternoon of last year’s event, and pushes the event near the \$15 million mark in total funds raised since it began in 1982. Proceeds will continue to be counted in the upcoming weeks and Prouty organizers expect the final amount raised will easily exceed 2010’s record amount of \$2.34 million.

“The 30th Prouty was a very special milestone to reach and the ever-growing Prouty community responded to the occasion with overwhelming support,” said Jean Brown, executive director of Prouty organizer [Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center](#).

“Hopefully, cancer won’t be around in 30 years and the efforts of everyone who biked, walked, rowed, volunteered and supported The Prouty puts us closer and closer to that goal. But if The Prouty is still needed in 30 years, I’m sure the community will still be supporting it with the commitment and enthusiasm that was on such great display today.”

Among the highlights of the 30th Prouty was the participation of Cindy Spicer, one of four fellow Dartmouth-Hitchcock oncology nurses who founded the event in 1982 by biking 100 miles in honor of the courage and spirit shown by one of their patients, Audrey Prouty.

“We never dreamed it would get this big and make such an impact,” said Spicer, a nurse at her husband John’s family practice in Littleton, N.H. “Our main goal was to honor a

woman who amazed us with her stamina and courage despite the pain she was going through. Having thousands of people come out to fight this terrible disease is such a testament to Audrey's memory."

More than 1,100 volunteers and 4,878 cyclists, walkers – and for the first time ever – rowers, took part in northern New England's largest fundraiser. Cyclists rode distances of 200, 100, 50, 35 or 20 miles, while walkers walked between three and 20 kilometers and rowers chose their own distances. Cycling and walking routes, excluding the 200-mile, two-day Prouty Ultimate which started Friday in Manchester, N.H., began and ended at Richmond Middle School in Hanover, N.H., and included scenic towns and countryside on both the New Hampshire and Vermont sides of the Connecticut River.

Hosted by the Friends of the Norris Cotton Cancer Center and presented by the Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation, money raised by The Prouty funds world-class research, state-of-the-art equipment, critical education programs, and innovative [clinical trials](#) that affect the lives of cancer patients around the world. These dollars also fund quality-of-life patient services such as massage, writing-for-healing workshops, [support groups](#), and patient libraries. The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center is one of only 40 federally designated [comprehensive cancer centers](#) in the country and the only one in northern New England.

The Prouty History

The Prouty was started in 1982 by four Norris Cotton Cancer Center nurses of patient Audrey Prouty, of Warren, NH, to honor her courage in fighting ovarian cancer. "It was the sight of Audrey facing her cancer everyday with such incredible courage that inspired us to challenge ourselves with a 100-mile ride," said Patti Carney, one of those four nurses. That first year they raised \$4,000. Since then, the event has raised more than \$14 million.

About Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center

Norris Cotton Cancer Center combines advanced cancer research at Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Medical School with patient-centered cancer care provided at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock regional locations in Manchester and Keene, NH, and St. Johnsbury, VT, and at 11 partner hospitals throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. It is recognized and designated by the National Cancer Institute for its breadth and depth as one of just 40 Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the U.S. Learn more about Norris Cotton Cancer Center research, programs, and clinical trials online at cancer.dartmouth.edu.