

KELLERS – from page 1

All funds will be used to help local people with cancer, according to Julie Keller. They hope to support local hospital cancer programs, local hospitals/clinics, and help individuals with their needs, including hotel stays, gas for appointments, food, etc.

According to information from the Keller Family Community Foundation, Nick has many friends and family who have cancer, who have survived cancer, or who have died as a result of cancer.

While snowmobiling in Wisconsin during the winter of 2007, he met a woman named Jane who was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer and didn't have long to live.

During that visit, Nick and Jane got to know each other, and Jane asked Nick and his fellow snowmobilers to help her fulfill her wish before she died. She wanted to learn to drive a snowmobile and go on a ride.

In February 2008, Nick helped Jane fulfill her wish. After enjoying a snowmobile adventure, she wished for a second trip the following winter. Sadly, she became too ill for a second trip and died in

March 2009.

"This experience made me think of ways I could further help people with cancer," said Nick Keller in a letter requesting sponsorship for "Snowball Cancer Challenge."

Keller's miles and adventures can be tracked on the "Snowball Cancer Challenge" website at www.snowball-cancer.org. Donations can be made via a link on the website or by contacting the Kellers. More information about the fundraising event is also available on the website.

The Kellers have not set an amount of money they would like to raise, though they hope

to raise enough money to have a perpetual fund, according to Julie. "We have been touched by the generosity of the people and children who have donated already, no matter the size of their donation," she said.

Besides monetary donations, snowmobile gear and supplies, food and beverages, and hotel stays are a few other suggested donations.

Snowmobilers are also encouraged to sign up to ride with Nick. The start date of the ride has not yet been determined, due to the uncertainty of when there will be enough snow.

Central Lakes Shopper

Paynesville Press
Nov. 18, 2009...

