

PRIDE Employee Newsletter

BY:

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Nick Keller attempting to set new world record snowmobiling while raising money for cancer research

A man, his sled, and miles of snow

Nick Keller has been an avid snowmobiler for 37 years. He has been a distance snowmobiler averaging 200 plus miles a day and over 5,000 miles a season. He is known throughout the area as "the mileage man". Nick is an active member in the Richmond snowmobile club and with the local/state snowmobile associations. He has also been involved in various other community organizations volunteering his time and talents.



Nick Keller

Nick Keller marked the 20th anniversary of his mother Mary Jane Keller's death in March 2009. Mary Jane died of breast cancer at the young age of 56 when Nick was only 34 years old. The Snowball Cancer Challenge is one way that Nick will be honoring his mother and celebrating his own life as he himself will be turning 56 in 2010.

While snowmobiling in Wisconsin Nick met a woman named Jane Sheline during the winter of 2007. Jane was a deputy sheriff with the Dane County Sheriff's Office in Wisconsin and diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. Jane did not have long to live. During that visit they got to know each other and Jane asked Nick (and the fellow snowmobilers) to help her fulfill a wish of hers before she died. Jane wanted to learn to drive a snowmobile and go on a snowmobile ride. In February 2008, Nick helped fulfill her wish. Jane enjoyed her adventure and wished for a second trip the following winter. Sadly, Jane became too ill to go on the second trip and died in March 2009.

Thru the foundation, started with members of Nick's family, he wants to attempt to break the world record for most miles snowmobiled in 60 consecutive days as a fundraiser. He wants to raise awareness, resources, and money to help people with cancer and their families. As he himself has many friends and family that have cancer, are survivors of cancer, or who have died of cancer.

The Keller Family Community Foundation is planning an event to raise awareness and money for cancer—Snowball Cancer Challenge. This event will also allow snowmobilers to ride with Nick during his attempt to break the record. Make sure to visit www.snowballcancer.org to track his miles and adventures throughout the 60 day journey. The website also offers people the opportunity to donate money via a secure website or by mailing checks directly to the foundation.

Nick will be starting his fundraising journey right after Christmas, beginning in Richmond with a send off ceremony and continuing through the upper Midwest and into Michigan.

Nick Keller is the brother-in-law of Sheri Keller, PAHCS Pharmacy Dept.