

Keller will try to break snowmobile mileage record again

Submitted by Julie Keller Dornbusch
Keller Family Community Foundation

RICHMOND — The Keller Family Community Foundation will be hosting a second annual fundraising event for the winter — Snowball Cancer Challenge 2011.

This winter Nick Keller will attempt to break his current world record for most miles snowmobiled in 60 days (19,506).

His goal is to ride his 2010 Yamaha RS Vector GT over 20,494 miles in 60 days, averaging 340 miles per day, and wants to break a personal best mileage day of more than 400 miles by riding on the trails in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. He plans to leave on his snowmobiling adventure sometime shortly after Christmas to start the 60-day event. Money raised by Snowball Cancer Challenge 2011 will go to the Keller Family Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization, for disbursement in support of the foundation mission.

Snowball Cancer Challenge 2011 is an interactive fundraising event that will allow other snowmobilers to ride during the attempt to break the world's record for consecutive snowmobiling distance and bring awareness and support to people living with cancer. The Keller Family Community Foundation is now accepting sponsorships and offering sponsorship space on Keller's snowmobile to help offset the cost for this year's attempt.

There also will be a kickoff Snowball Cancer Challenge 2011 supper with music from 4 p.m. to midnight on Dec. 17 at The River Station-Grandpa Jerry's on West Main Street in Richmond.

Music will be provided by the Good Ol' Boys Band.

KFCF has set a goal to raise more than \$100,000 in donations for Snowball Cancer Challenge 2011 that, in turn, will be used to help the community.

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Photo submitted by Julie Keller Dornbusch, Keller Family Community Foundation

Nick Keller pauses with his snowmobile during the inaugural Snowball Cancer Challenge, on which he broke the world record for most miles snowmobiled in 60 days. Shown here on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, he covered 19,506 miles last winter to raise money for the Keller Family Community Foundation.

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Record

Snowball Cancer Challenge 2010 took place last winter with Keller starting his journey on Dec. 26 and finishing it Feb. 23 at The River Station.

His effort far surpassed the previous record of 12,163 miles held by Robert Davis of Maine.

The official paperwork has been sent to Guinness in England for recognition of Keller's record-breaking attempt and he is awaiting a response.

The focus of Keller's snowmobile riding is to raise awareness and funds for people with cancer.

His journey is available to see at www.snowballcancer.org.

Keller's mother died 25 years ago from breast cancer at age 56, and he has many other family members and friends who have been affected by cancer.

Keller, a founding member of KFCF, said "Everyone knows someone with cancer and is affected by it in some way."

Keller has been an avid snowmobiler for the past 38 years. He is active in his local snowmobile club and participates with the local and state snowmobile associations.

Keller and his wife Janet, along with their daughters Julie (Dornbusch), Carrie (Burhop Keller) and Melissa (Ngeno) founded the KFCF to support research, education and informational activities to increase public awareness; and prevent and treat chronic health conditions and diseases, such as cancer, diabetes and depression.