

Spin wheels and wet whistles

Two Cheshire events to raise money for MS

BY LAURESHA XHIHANI
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CHESHIRE — Two events later this month will raise money to combat multiple sclerosis.

A beer tasting and an indoor cycling class will benefit Team Jenifer, which is run by the Walsh family and friends, and helps the Connecticut Chapter of the National MS Society.

Team Jenifer is a top fundraising team for the Cheshire MS Walk, which is scheduled for April 10. The events raise money for the team leading up the MS Walk.

Jenifer Walsh was diagnosed with MS, an incurable and debilitating disease of the central nervous system, in 1998. Since 2000, Team Jenifer, which honors her, has raised more than \$130,000.

Jenifer and her husband, Don Walsh, are also the organizers of Cheshire's Lights of Hope, a fundraiser that benefits the Petit Family Foundation and other non-profit organizations in town, and also gives a yearly scholarship to a Cheshire High School student. The luminaria-lighting fundraiser was started in memory of Jennifer Hawke-



Walsh

IF YOU GO

» **Beer Tasting:** March 18 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Cheshire Wine and Spirits, West Main Grill or by contacting Team Jenifer at 203-439-0687 or captain@teamjenifer.com.

» **4th Annual Pedal for a Purpose:** March 27 starting at 8:30 a.m. at Cheshire Fitness for Women. \$15 registration fee. For information, visit www.cf4women.com.

Petit and her daughters Hayley, 17, and Michaela, 11, who died in a home invasion in town in 2007.

The 6th Annual Beer Tasting Event is sponsored by Cheshire Wine and Spirits and will be held at the offices of Lane Construction Co. at 90 Fieldstone Court on March 18 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Don Walsh said organizers expect 400 to 500 people to show up for the beer testing, which has grown so big it needed a larger venue.

The 4th Annual Pedal for a Purpose, an indoor cycling event, will be held at Cheshire Fitness for Women on March 27.

Cheshire Fitness for Women manager Farrah Fiedler said the event raises money for dif-

ferent causes, including breast cancer, cerebral palsy and spinal muscular atrophy. This year the event is raising money in honor of Jenifer Walsh. Walsh often uses a cane to walk, but once she started spinning, she just kept going and has been teaching it for the past year.

"She is pretty inspiring," Fiedler said.

Fiedler said last year the event raised \$9,000 with some 150 people participating. This year, organizers hope to have 210 participants.

Don Walsh said between the two events, Team Jenifer is expected to raise more than \$20,000. The team raised \$18,000 last year.