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THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY OF PHILADELPHIA WELCOMES PANCREATIC CANCER SURVIVOR ON HIS 6,600 MILE CROSS-COUNTRY MOTORCYCLE JOURNEY

Tom Cronan Raises Awareness of Cancer Survivorship and Support Using His Harley Davidson

The Wellness Community of Philadelphia (TWCP), a non-profit organization that provides a free professional program of emotional support, education and hope for people affected by cancer, will welcome Tom Cronan on Monday, April 25. Cronan, a one-year pancreatic cancer survivor from Knoxville, Tennessee, is currently motorcycling to **Wellness Communities** across the United States to tell the public that having cancer does not mean life is over. Rather, cancer is now considered more of a chronic disease, and people with cancer in 2005 can still lead an active life.

Cronan's stop at **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia**, The Suzanne Morgan Center at Ridgeland, Chamounix Drive, West Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is part of his cross-country ride entitled, "Wellness/Attitude/Research (WAR) on Cancer...from a Motorcycle." He will be available during the morning to speak about his cancer survivorship and cross-country journey. He will also be available for on-the-road interviews during the course of his travels.

Cronan, an avid camper and motorcyclist, is a retired professor of health and fitness in Knoxville, Tennessee. In March 2004, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, one of the more aggressive forms of the disease. Since his diagnosis, he has undergone treatment and finished chemotherapy in February 2005. As a participant at **The Wellness Community of East Tennessee**, Cronan followed the Patient Active Concept, the foundation of **TWC**, which states, "Patients who participate in their fight for recovery along with their health care team, rather than acting as hopeless, helpless, passive victims of the illness, will improve the quality of their lives and may enhance the possibility of recovery."

"**The Wellness Community** is playing a critical role in my recovery by giving me the support and education that I need to move through this phase of my life," said Cronan. "Cancer is not an end in itself. I want to share my belief that promoting total wellness

and a healthy attitude, ideals that **The Wellness Community** stands behind, is a huge part in being a cancer survivor.”

Cronan began his ride on April 7 in Knoxville, Tennessee and will make his way around the country, ending his ride on May 19 at **The Wellness Community – East Bay** in San Francisco, California. In all, he will be welcomed by the 22 **Wellness Communities** in the United States and by two in development in Dayton, Ohio and in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Kathleen Coyne, acting **TWCP** executive director, says, “We are very excited to have Tom coming to Philadelphia to support **TWCP**. We wish him luck as he continues his journey, spreading the word about the free programs of emotional support, education and hope provided by **Wellness Communities** nationwide.”

Cronan’s tour journal can be viewed at www.wellnesscommunitytn.org/blog. Contact Scott Bluebond at (215) 879-7733 ext. 206 or at sbluebond@twcp.org to set up an on-the-road interview.

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The mission of **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia (TWCP)** is to help people affected by cancer enhance their health and well-being through participation in a free professional program of emotional support, education and hope. **TWCP** offers programs at Ridgeland in Fairmount Park and limited offsite programs in Chester county, the Bux-Mont area, Hahnemann University Hospital and throughout Philadelphia. Please call **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia** at (215) 879-7733, (888) 819-3553 or visit **TWCP’s** website at www.twcp.org for more information. Reminder: **The Wellness Community of Philadelphia's** grounds and buildings are smoke-free.