

Hope Luncheon last fall was a big success

Planning is already underway for this year's Hope Luncheon in Marengo.

Organizers say it will be a women-only educational luncheon, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 27, during breast cancer awareness month. Information and tickets will be available on the organization's website at www.hopeluncheon.com.

This year's event comes on the heels of a successful Hope Luncheon last fall during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the death of Marengo resident Jayne Swift

More than \$10,000 was raised at the Oct. 1, 2011, event at the American Legion Hall, Marengo, making possible a free mammography program for women of Iowa County in Swift's memory. The funds also will pay for other breast cancer prevention programs.

The program will pay all charges for a mammogram for qualifying individuals. Women must be residents of Iowa County and must fill out a short, confidential application form that is processed by Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids.

Additional services will be available to qualifying women through The Hope Luncheon and Marengo Memorial Hospital Foundation partnering with Mercy Medical Center. Women qualifying for a free mammogram who require additional breast care services, will be

provided with the needed services through Mercy's Especially for You fund. One application qualifies women for both programs. Applications forms can be downloaded from the Hope Luncheon website (www.hopeluncheon.com/free-mammograms) or the Mercy Care website (www.mercy-care.org/EFY).

PHAT Daddy's catered a buffet-style dinner for the Hope Luncheon evening event, with auctions and raffles being held. The event was a co-ed event for the first time since the Hope Luncheon was established in 2001.

A host of community volunteers contributed to the success of the event. Organizers Conna Bral and Kim Loffer were assisted by volunteers Christine Snook, Darla Doud, Joanne Slockett, and Kathleen Frimml. Cathy Bral-Horgan served as the fundraising auctioneer and Sarah and Michelle Swift conducted the raffles at the event. Local companies and organizations provided auction items, cash and in-kind donations to make the event a success. Local companies included: PHAT Daddy's, American Legion, Reflections Entertainment, Phool's Gold, Tanger Outlet Center, Coach Factory Outlet, CarQuest, Jumer's Hotel and Casino, Riverside Casino and Gold Resort, The Ladies Room, Williamsburg Recreation Center, Subway, Millstream Brewery, Marengo

Memorial Hospital, King Theatre, Hair Supply, Family Hair Design, Hair Addiction, Cornerstone Apothecary, Brown's True Value Hardware, Lucky Six Lanes, The Hawk Shop, Cookies by Design, Corning Revere, Grand Harbor Resort, Harry & David, Aspen Wellness, and Big G.

In addition, corporate sponsors donated merchandise for the auctions and raffles. National companies included Coca-Cola Refreshments, KitchenAid, Best Buy, Americrown, Cuisinart, Keurig, Mead Westmavo, MSI Mold Builders, University of Phoenix, Olive Garden, Paul Deen Co., Rabbit Air, Texas Roadhouse, Theisen's, Stampin Up, Events Promotions Now, Well-Traveled Living, 4 Imprint, Applebee's, Bennigan's, Chili's, Coldstone Creamery, Coralridge Mall, Gourmet Gift Baskets, Outback Steak House, Carpet One, Oriental Trading, Papa Murphy's, Pizza Hut, Red Lobster, Rumba, Scheels, Ganz, Grill Toppers, Honest Brands, Panera Bread, Conrad and Waldorf Hotels, Home Depot, InMart Group and Walmart. The committee sincerely apologizes to any company whose generosity was inadvertently omitted from this article.

Jayne Soppe was born Feb. 12, 1960, in Manchester. She attended St. Mary's Catholic School and graduated from West Delaware High School in 1978. She graduated from Loras College in



Above photo: The Swift family during the Hope luncheon event last fall. **Right photo:** Cathy Bral-Horgan during the auction. Organizers said the event, to raise awareness for breast cancer, was a success.



Courtesy photos

1982. In 1983 she married Mark Swift and began teaching at St. Mary's School. Jayne and Mark moved to Marengo in 1985 when they purchased Brown's Hardware.

Jayne Swift held teaching jobs at St. Matthew's in Cedar Rapids and BGM before

coming to Iowa Valley in 1987 as a reading teacher then accepted the media specialist position. She was also the religious education director for St. Patrick's Church and an active community volunteer in Marengo.

Jayne was diagnosed with breast cancer about

five years before her death. While battling cancer she underwent surgeries and a bone marrow transplant before her death April 27, 2001, at age 41. Jayne and Mark are the parents of four children: Sarah, Michelle, Jacob and Matt.