



Five Points of Hope ★ P.O. Box 583 ★ Milford, Michigan

A press release from Five Points of Hope

For Immediate Release

Milford Cancer Charity Seeks Community Votes in \$10,000 Contest

MILFORD, Mich., April 10th, 2018 - Cancer care charity Five Points of Hope was notified Monday that the Milford-based nonprofit was selected as one of five finalists by Community Financial Credit Union for its “Thumbs Up for Charity” contest. The winner of the most online votes will receive a donation from the Credit Union of \$10,000. Online voting at www.cfcu/ThumbsUp began Monday and ends April 20th. The winner will be announced April 25th. Second and third place charities will each receive \$5,000 and fourth and fifth place finishers will each receive \$2,500.

“We are so excited that Community Financial is giving us a thumbs up for all that we do for financially distressed Michigan cancer patients, by selecting us for this awesome contest,” said Erin Welsh, Five Points of Hope founder and president. “We are asking everyone who has a special place in their hearts for Michigan’s cancer patients to go online and vote for us every day.”

Five Points of Hope awards monetary grants to needy Michigan cancer patients to help them pay bills, such as insurance deductibles, prescriptions, medical equipment and utility bills. Patients are nominated for the grants by social workers. The charity pays bills up to

\$500 by paying vendors directly to avoid misuse of funds. The charity, based in Milford, is run entirely by volunteers, so more of the money raised goes directly to patients in need. In 2017 the charity granted \$51,371 in financial assistance to 118 deserving Michigan cancer patients.

According to Kathy Knighton, the charity's grant recipient coordinator, the charity has already awarded more than \$16,000 in grants in 2018, but sadly has had to deny approximately 60 requests for financial aid already this year, simply because the charity can't raise enough money to meet demand in between fundraisers.

"The more people hear about our wonderful little charity, the more requests we get for financial assistance, and it absolutely breaks our hearts when we can't help everyone," she said. "Ten thousand dollars would really go a long way to helping us meet the need of Michigan cancer patients in between fundraisers."

Five Points of Hope Board Member Lisa Philip is credited with nominating the charity for participation in the Community Financial contest and was elated upon hearing the news that Five Points of Hope was selected to be a finalist. "I am so thankful that I happened to see Community Financial's promotion for the contest in the newspaper and thrilled beyond words that we were selected." Philip, who is herself a cancer survivor, said "The need in Michigan is so great, so if we can win this it will go a long way to helping a lot of people who have been hit hard by both cancer and the bills that come along with the disease."

"The nonprofit groups in our communities work hard and we are proud to support them throughout the year." said Community Financial's Manager/Community Relations Natalie McLaughlin. "We want to provide the residents of our communities a chance to tell us which groups they think deserve recognition, and "Thumbs Up for Charity!" gives them that opportunity."

In order to be selected for the contest, Five Points of Hope had to verify its status as a registered 501(c)(3) organization, prove its status as a recognized community support organization and prove it serves the communities within Community Financial's branch territory.

Five Points of Hope, like Community Financial, serves only Michigan residents. The credit union has 12 branch locations across Michigan, including seven offices across Wayne and Oakland counties and five offices in the upper portion of the Lower Peninsula.

Last year's winner of the Thumb's Up for Charity first place prize was Stiggy's Dogs of Howell, an organization that rescues and trains shelter dogs to be psychiatric service dogs for military veterans living with posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

Five Points of Hope began raising money for a cancer care fund in 2001 as a memorial to founder Erin Welsh's father Michael McCusker, who died of cancer in 1999, and in celebration of life for a family friend Beth, who is a cancer survivor. The organization achieved non-profit status in 2007. Here is a list of the charity's upcoming 2018 fundraisers:

- ***Ninja Warrior Fun Night*** at The Edge Training Center in Commerce Township on April 14th.
- ***Euchre for Hope*** at the Milford American Legion Post 216 on April 21st.
- ***Golf for Hope*** at Brentwood Golf Club in White Lake Township on May 19th.
- ***Shop 'Til You Drop on Main in Milford*** during the week of June 2nd-9th.
- ***A Night to Remember*** at Edgewood Country Club in Commerce on Nov. 2nd.

For information about Five Points of Hope, go to www.fivepointsofhope.com.

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