

Keller Williams fundraisers to aid Realtor Darbee Fisher

By TOM BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ

On Saturday, July 24, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Akala Street in Maui Meadows, a huge yard sale will be held to benefit Darbee Fisher, a popular artist and Realtor (Sales) with Keller Williams Realty. That event will be followed on Saturday, September 11, with a silent auction, an Irish/Hawaiian buffet dinner and live music at Mulligan's on the Blue in Wailea, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Among those performing will be Jimmy Mac and the Kool Kats and other guest celebrities.

The cost for the September 11 fundraiser is \$40 per person or \$75 for two. For reservations call Mulligan's at 874-1131. Those wishing to attend are urged to call early as the benefit is expected to sell out.

The week after Mother's Day, Darbee was walking above Makena Landing. About a half hour into her walk with friends Barbara Kenrich, Realtor Broker, Pacific Island Realty, LLC, and Pat Swatzel, Realtor (Sales), Island Sotheby's International Realty, Darbee's left foot suddenly stopped working. She stumbled to the ground and Barbara and Pat flagged down a tourist who called 911.

After emergency personnel arrived on the scene she was



taken to Maui Memorial Medical Center, and following several MRI scans it was determined that Darbee had suffered a focal seizure and that she had a brain tumor.

According to a National Institutes of Health supported Med Line website, all seizures are caused by abnormal electrical disturbances in the brain. Partial focal seizures occur when this electrical activity remains in a limited area of the brain.

Darbee's doctor told her she needed to go to Oahu and, after a night at home, she went to the Kaiser Hospital and was admitted. On Friday, May 14, a biopsy was performed. On Monday, her diagnosis unfortunately came back as cancer.

Darbee had earlier called her friend and colleague at Keller Williams, Gina Duncan, Realtor (Sales) to let her know what



Darbee Fisher will be the beneficiary of two benefits to assist with her medical and other expenses. The first is a huge yard sale on Saturday, July 24, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Akala Street in Maui Meadows. The second is a silent auction and dinner with live music on Saturday, September 11, at Mulligan's on the Blue, in Wailea, beginning at 5:30 p.m. For tickets call 874-1131.

had happened. It was not long afterwards that she received a telephone call from Lynne Woods, the Team Leader at Keller Williams, asking if Darbee would allow her to let the rest of her team know the situation, and if they might possibly do a fundraiser to help Darbee with the expenses not covered by insurance.

"A number of fundraisers are being organized to assist

Darbee and her husband with their household and medical expenses. After the events, our office will apply to KW Cares for a grant of matching funds to assist Darbee with steadily growing medical costs surrounding her cancer treatment," she said.

KW Cares is a non-profit organized and managed by Keller Williams Realty in its home office in Austin, Texas.

One of the purposes of the fund is to assist the members of the Keller Williams Realty family with costs due to natural disasters, injuries, illness and other issues causing financial distress.

"Now one of the caring and generous agents in our Maui office is in need of assistance from this fund," Woods said.

The Keller Williams led "Darbee Fisher, the Queen of

our Hearts" campaign involves a score of real estate agents and friends. Funds raised will help to cover living expenses, non-reimbursed medical expenses and loss of income due to the inability to work, among other areas.

The September 11 benefit at Mulligan's is called, "An Evening of Hope and Healing," and its organizers are calling it a FUNRaiser for Darbee. A website has been established at www.rqueenofhearts.com and various items featuring Darbee's art work, including t-shirts, a teddy bear, an apron, a water bottle, a mug and cards, prints and calendars can be purchased on the website www.cafepress.com/rqueenofhearts.

Why was the date of September 11 chosen? Partly because of scheduling demands, but there is more to the significance of the date for Darbee.

"One of the things I have always tried to do is not live my life in fear," she said. "I grew up in the mid-Hudson Valley, an hour-and-a-half from the World Trade Center...I've been a visitor to the city many many times when I was a kid...and if we live in fear, the terrorists won."

"Within our committee meetings, somehow the whole idea of 'Hope and Healing' bubbled to the surface, and I think it's great," she said.