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Stories of Hope: "Friends of Amy" Remember with Walk of Hope

AKRON, Ohio – It's appropriate that Stewart's Caring Place will be holding its first annual Hope Walk the weekend of Memorial Day.

"Our friend Amy Klein had just died, so we decided to do the walk in her memory," said friend Annie Laurie Chelovitz.

She and Klein, who died from cancer earlier this year, had been friends for seven years. The pair had met through Klein's jewelry design business.

Chelovitz first became involved with Stewart's when her now seven-year-old daughter selected Stewart's as the charity to which she wanted to donate her birthday money. But after visiting Stewart's, the rest of the family decided to become involved, as well.

"You walk in there and it's a really positive atmosphere, very hopeful," she said. "Once you stop in and meet the people who are running it, you just want to spend more time there. And people who have lived through dealing with cancer are there to share their experiences with others. They're just so positive."

As team captain for Friends of Amy, she and a group of approximately 20 people will be walking to remember a woman they remember as vibrant and loving.

"We're doing this so she will not be forgotten," said Chelovitz.

The Walk of Hope will be held Saturday, May 26 from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Downtown Akron at Lock 3 Park, 190 S. Main Street.

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. Anyone wishing to participate may register up to the time the walk begins. Following the walk is a celebration picnic with live music, games and activities. Walk participants are encouraged to raise funds to support the free services offered by Stewart's Caring Place. For more information, please visit StewartsCaringPlace.org/Events or contact Stewart's Caring Place at 330-836-1772. Participants raising \$100 or more will receive individual Hope Walk awards.

Stewart's Caring Place is a non-profit organization providing compassionate support and education to those touched by cancer. Located at the corner of West Market Street and Miller Road in Fairlawn, Stewart's Caring Place offers healing arts, education, support groups, counseling, children's services and a variety of other programs. All of the services are free of charge thanks to the generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations.

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