



ARM YOURSELF AGAINST OVARIAN CANCER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OVARIAN CANCER FIGHTER LAUNCHES FOUNDATION TO EDUCATE WOMEN AGAINST THE DISEASE

*The Anne Rita Monahan Foundation will be Established During
September's National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month*

PHOENIX—August 15, 2007—In October of 2001 Anne Rita Monahan was faced with news that would alter her life forever. Her doctor held her hand and told her she had ovarian cancer; news that the American Cancer Society estimates 22,430 women will also discover this year and 15,280 will die from. Since the date of her diagnosis, Monahan has fought with fervor to end the disease in her body. Her latest battle, however, is one she hopes will continue on forever. On Sept. 1, 2007, a date shared with the beginning of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Monahan will launch the Anne Rita Monahan Foundation (ARM); an initiative to arm other women against the disease that has taken so much away from her.

“I hope that by telling my story I can impact other women’s lives in a positive way,” said Monahan. “I want my life to help create awareness in others of the importance of early detection and the danger of misdiagnosis,” she said.

While the incidence of ovarian cancer is not as great as other types of cancers—such as breast cancer—over half of the women diagnosed with ovarian cancer will die because by the time the disease is detected it will have already spread too far. According to The American Cancer Society, “If (ovarian cancer is) diagnosed and treated while the cancer has not spread outside the ovary, the 5-year survival rate is 93 percent. However, only 19 percent of all ovarian cancers are found at this early stage.” Presently ovarian cancer accounts for more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system.

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Although Monahan enjoyed 17 months of remission after her first surgery, which ended in a total hysterectomy followed by a tough round of chemotherapy, the cancer returned. Monahan continues to fight the disease one day at a time and, like so many other victims of this disease, will unavoidably have to continue chemotherapy for the rest of her life.

The ARM Foundation's charge is to raise awareness of the disease of ovarian cancer so that it will be caught earlier. The Foundation hopes that as women become more aware of the disease and its symptoms, their vigilance will help decrease misdiagnoses.

The Foundation has already and will continue to raise money for research to find a reliable screening tool for the disease. According to the National Cancer Institute, the current tools used to detect ovarian cancer include: physical exams, blood tests—including the CA-125, which tests the level of a substance that may be a sign of cancer, ultra sounds and a biopsies. Currently there is no stand-alone, reliable screening test in place for this disease, which is a hindrance to early detection.

Monahan hopes that through her Foundation's efforts, women with symptoms associated with ovarian cancer will go to their doctors and insist on an ultra sound or the CA-125 test to see if they could be in the beginning stages of the disease.

“So many of my experiences have taught me you have to be your own advocate,” said Monahan. “I want other women to avoid the terrible things I continue to endure by raising their awareness of the disease and its symptoms so they are properly diagnosed as early as possible.”

The ARM Foundation has already and will continue to raise funds through sponsorship of fundraising events and activities to help drive its cause. As the Foundation continues to grow and mature, Monahan expects to expand the Foundation's efforts to other areas of this debilitating disease. Not only are the tolls of this disease evident in the physical sense, its tax inevitably seeps into psychological and financial areas as well. Monahan plans to develop avenues to help victims of ovarian cancer regain emotional well-being as well as financial stability as they battle the disease.

About the Anne Rita Monaban Foundation

The Anne Rita Monaban Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, which was established on Sept. 1, 2007. The Foundation's aim is to create awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer in order to encourage early detection and decrease cases of misdiagnosis. In addition, the Foundation raises funds to aid in finding a reliable screening for this disease. With the mission to eradicate ovarian cancer, the Foundation continues to promote awareness and early detection. For more information on the ARM Foundation or for information about volunteering or contributing to this important cause, please visit www.anneritamonaban.org or call 602-264-5539.

*Facts and figures from this press release can be found at the following locations:

National Cancer Institute:

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/ovary/page6>

American Cancer Society:

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_1X_What_are_the_key_statistics_for_ovarian_cancer_33.asp?sitearea=

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