

Hotel Event to Benefit Hope Lodge



TEMPLE TERRACE - Barbara Scott knows what a valuable resource the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge is to cancer patients who seek treatment at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center.

Scott is manager of Fairfield Inn and Suites Tampa North in Temple Terrace, and because part of her responsibilities include looking for ways for her company to be a good corporate citizen, the hotel's three-mile proximity to Hope Lodge makes it an easy sell for spending some of its charitable dollars.

In recognition of the Fairfield Inn's recent renovations, the hotel is hosting an open house from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday. In addition to providing free refreshments, the proceeds generated from the sale of snow cones and other items meant to bring special awareness to lung cancer will be donated to the lodge.

Located on the University of South Florida campus, Hope Lodge, a 47,000-square-foot, 40-suite facility, provides free short-term housing to those from out of area who need life-saving care.

"What we really hope to do is to show how we're in partnership with Hope Lodge," Scott said.

She noted how her company will contribute the money it earns from the open house to Hope Lodge's Relay for Life team, which will take part in the overnight event on April 8 at USF. .

"While we take good care of people who stay at our lodge, they are doing great work by taking care of people battling cancer."

Sharon Walker-Whitehead, director of Hope Lodge, is happy to have the support of the hotel.

"We're excited to be in partnership with them," she said. "And sometimes if patients have to wait to get into Hope Lodge they will stay at the Fairfield Inn at reduced rates until there is availability."