

Nonprofit gives cancer, rehab patients a convenient home

by Savannah Weeks

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Connie Bullock established the Bullock HOPE House as a way for cancer and rehab patients to stay close to their hospital and doctors offices.

Bullock works with WellStar Cancer Center, Children's Healthcare at Scottish Rite hospital, the American Cancer Center and other area hospitals and social workers to offer the house in Powder Springs to patients and their

families free of charge.

"We turned down three families in the last two weeks," Bullock said. "There's a definite need for this kind of thing."

She started the nonprofit in 2005 after she and her husband loaned a vacant house in Powder Springs they owned to a friend.

"We first offered it to some friends of ours from Cedartown who were driving to Northside [Hospital] for their daughter," Bullock said.

The home belonged to Bullock's husband. The Bullocks' daughter lived in the house for eight years before getting married. When she moved out, the couple was trying to figure out what to do with the building.

After getting its nonprofit status and getting the other legalities in place, the Bullock HOPE House had its first guest in 2008.

Bullock said the home was the first privately owned facility of its kind in Georgia.

The house has two bedrooms, one bathroom, a kitchen, dining room, living room and laundry room.

It is fully furnished and stocked with anything the family may need while staying there.

"We have anywhere from three to eight families each year," said Bullock. "It depends on their condition. Some people stay only one to two weeks, and some stay for several months."

The house's current guests have been living there for four months, she said.

The nonprofit held its first golf tournament fundraiser "Golf Fore Hope" with the American Cancer Society April 30 at Creekside Golf & Country Club in Hiram.

"We split some of the profits with [American Cancer Society's] Hope Lodge," said Bullock. "The funds we raised went to day-to-day operations of the HOPE House."

There are 31 Hope Lodge locations across the country. Georgia's Hope Lodge is located in Decatur. The lodge functions like Bullock's HOPE House.

Next year's Golf Fore Hope will be April 29.

"Our tag line is housing for hope one day at a time," said Bullock.

To make a donation to the HOPE House, visit their website at bullockhopehouse.org/donate or send a check or credit card information to: Bullock Foundation, Inc. 115 Waterford Way, Powder Springs, GA 30127.

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