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**MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**COMMUNITY SHOWS ITS SUPPORT OF  
TRI-CITIES CANCER CENTER FOUNDATION**

**Kennewick, WA** – The Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation announced the proceeds from its Autumn Affair fundraising event totaled \$223,000.00, exceeding the event goal by 48%. The 11<sup>th</sup> annual event held on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at the Pasco Red Lion hosted 320 community supporters of the Tri-Cities Cancer Center and its Foundation.

The sold out crowd eagerly supported the Foundation and the Tri-Cities Cancer Center Resource Center by raising \$18,000 in the silent auction and \$45,000 in the live auction. Following a surprise announcement from Dave Schultz, Hapo Community Credit Union, with a \$50,000 pledge, attendees raised an additional \$46,450 during Raise the Paddle. Event sponsorship completed the fundraising, which totaled \$223,000.00 for the evening.

CH2M Hill committed to the Platinum Sponsorship for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Other dedicated sponsors included Columbia Basin Hematology and Oncology, Kennewick General Hospital, Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Lourdes Health Network, and URS.

The Autumn Affair is one of four main fundraising events held through the year benefitting the Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation. All donations to the Foundation stay local and are used to provide valuable non-reimbursed cancer programs and services to patients, their families, and the community. Some of the services and programs available at no cost include: the WellFit™ program, Patient Navigation (nurse managed care), financial counseling, educational presentations, support groups, cancer screenings, post mastectomy supplies, wigs, and hats.

“This was a record-breaking event,” states Tom Cothran, Tri-Cities Cancer Center Executive Director. “It is inspiring and humbling to witness the generosity and support of our community. When HAPO Credit Union pledged \$50,000.00 the excitement level in the room, went from intense to electrifying. HAPO Credit Union continues to be an incredible partner! We are so grateful to CH2M Hill for their continued Platinum level sponsorship of the event, for HAPO’s continuing partnership and generosity, and to all who attended and chose support the mission of the Tri-Cities Cancer Center.”

“This event continues to grow and surprise,” states Elizabeth McLaughlin, Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation Events Specialist. “Each year people donate remarkable items for the auction. There was something for everyone. Some are whimsical, some are elegant, but all are special and this year was no exception. In addition to the donated items, people also donate of their time to plan and help organize the event. This event is a year in the making. It simply would not be possible without the support of our fabulous volunteers! I want to thank all who helped to make this a record breaking and memorial occasion!”

The Tri-Cities Cancer Center, a leader in radiation oncology in southeastern Washington and northeastern Oregon, is a joint venture between Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Kennewick General Hospital, and Lourdes Health Network. As a not-for-profit organization, donations made to the Foundation are tax deductible and support local cancer patients and their families.

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**Media:** To help us ensure the confidentiality of our patients, if you wish to visit the Tri-Cities Cancer Center for the purpose of interviewing and/or covering an activity, please call ahead. A member of the Cancer Center outreach staff will be available to assist you. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.