

The Hour Online

Courage to Speak crew to take part in L.I. Sound kayaking fundraiser

NORWALK — Ginger Katz, president of The Courage to Speak Foundation, has announced formation of a Courage to Speak kayaking team that will be part of Nautica/GQ Kayak For A Cause VII on Saturday, July 28, starting at Calf Pasture Beach and celebrating at Veterans Park in Norwalk. The Courage to Speak Foundation is one of five organizations benefiting from this extraordinary annual event that is expected to draw nearly 300 kayakers.

Other charities receiving proceeds from Nautica/GQ Kayak For A Cause VII are Cancer Care, Hole in the Wall Camp, Outward Bound, and Save the Sound.

Nautica/GQ Kayak for A Cause was created seven years ago by co-founders, Miles Spencer and Scott Carlin, to blend love of the sport with commitment to helping good causes. Kayakers join together to cross Long Island Sound, trekking 12-13 miles, and raising money for the five participating charities. Members of the Courage to Speak Kayak For A Cause team include: Ruth Bardos of Old Saybrook; Cindy Clark of Norwalk; Jim Clark of Norwalk; Peter Corbett of Fairfield; Kileen Doyle of Norwalk; and Jim Sibley of Westport.

"We are blessed to be part of this extraordinary community happening," said Katz. "Donations we receive will help us reach more children and parents, and perhaps save a life. We are especially pleased to have an even larger kayaker team this year with encore treks across Long Island Sound by board members Peter Corbett, Kileen Doyle, and Jim Sibley."

"Part of our mission is to help forward the good work of organizations in our community", said Miles Spencer, co-founder of Kayak for a Cause. "We are proud to have played a small role in what Courage to Speak has accomplished since we began our support a few years ago"

In addition to kayakers, The Courage to Speak Foundation will host a basketball exhibition and contest, "Courage to Shoot a Hoop," as part of event festivities, with special pins for all participants and prizes for those who shoot three successive baskets: a three-point shot, a foul shot, and a lay-up shot. Basketball features prominently in Courage to Speak presentations, as it was one of the athletic passions that Ginger Katz found to get her through the loss of her 20-year-old son, Ian, to a drug overdose in 1986. She encourages young people to find their passions as a means toward avoiding alcohol and other drug use.

Kayak For A Cause has announced record sponsor support this year from GQ, Nautica, Spinnaker, Sovereign Bank, Spiderphone, Land Rover, LSV Asset Management, and the Gentlemen's Fund. In addition, Sony records performer Ryan Shaw, known for his unique soul and blues grooving, will open the 2007 KFAC Beach Party and Aaron Neville will perform. Visit www.kayakforacause.com



Kileen Doyle Kayaker for Kayak for a Cause and Courage to Speak board member