

Call for Artists and Businesses to Join Silent Auction to Benefit MS



Multiple Sclerosis Walk Team 100 Strong and Thatcher's Art Alcove in Marlborough seeks Connecticut artists and business to contribute art, products, and services for their Silent Auction on May 5 from 1 to 3 at the Art Alcove on 6 Independence Drive. Proceeds for the silent auction will go the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in the name of MS Walk Team 100 Strong.

100 Strong is the brainchild of Hamilton, a Marlborough resident, who was diagnosed in 2006 with multiple sclerosis. She established 100 Strong with the hope of reaching 100 people and businesses committed to raise a minimum of \$100 each. A grassroots effort, she figured, would raise awareness of the disease as well as bring her one step closer to a much-needed cure.

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic and often disabling disease attacking the central nervous system. More than 6,000 Connecticut residents battle the myriad of symptoms that can include, among other things, difficulties with speech and vision, numbness and tingling in the limbs, memory loss, stiffness, spasticity, and in some more severe cases, total paralysis. The severity and progress of the disease in an individual cannot be predicted.



"Greg Barton of Glastonbury and Headworks Salon and Day Spa lets 100 Strong team member Rosie the Dog sample what a free hair cut and

blow dry will feel like to his lucky auction winner. His expert attentions had her tongue wagging."

The team seeks to raise \$10,000 for research to end this disease. So far the team has raised 17% of that goal through Sacred Rivers Yoga's Walk and Yoga Days, videos on You Tube, t-shirt sales and friends and family. Everyone in the community who has a product, service, craft item or art piece is invited to join this event. Items can be of minor monetary value or substantial as every dollar raised helps bring the team closer to helping find a cure.

The Auction's growing list of artistic contributors includes: international artist Brian Andres (creator of StoryPeople), international shamanic artist Balam Soto, international author and artist Alex Grey, national potter Chris London, local watercolor artist Mary Horrigan and local potter Michele Sinkez of Blissmeadow Arts. Service donations include a one-hour reading from nationally respected psychic Jackie Barrett from "Americia's Psychic Challenge", two three-month memberships to internationally known Hollistic Health practioner, author, and tv star of BBC Americas "You Are What You Eat" Gillian McKeith's on-line health club, a cut and blow dry from Headworks Salon and Day Spa, two yoga classes from Sacred

Rivers Yoga, and a private drawing or watercolor lessons from local artist Kathy Berlin. Additionally, Stone Age and Dynamite Dangles are providing jewelry, Lori Brown is offering a massage, and BJ's, Stop & Shop and the Marlborough Barn are offering gift certificates. Castor & Pollux, a progressive pet supply company, is generously giving organic dog and cat food samples and coupons to our donors at all our team events.

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To donate an item, contact Cassandra Hamilton at 860-295-0444 or captain100Strong@mac.com. Learn more about the team at: <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/goto/100Strong>. See their videos at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CassandraMadeIt>.