

Local author promotes cancer awareness through books

STAFF REPORT

Local author Michelle Miller is on a national book-signing and media tour this year and held a book signing at the W. McDermott location of Starbucks in Allen Feb. 8 to promote cancer awareness and talk to her readers while signing copies of her book, *On My Way to the Cancer Monument*.

Miller's book, published in 2005 by Allen-based Timberwolf Press, is based on finding hope and purpose while coping and living with cancer. The non-fiction work recounts Miller's first five years of her on-going battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma as well as her visionary inspiration to build the internationally awaited Cancer Monument in Allen.

Miller is the founder and executive director of The Cancer Monument Inc. a 501c3 based in Allen since 2002.

"Anyone who has battled cancer, living or deceased, is a hero and

should have their name inscribed on this legacy teaching structure as a symbol of hope, inspiration and courage," Miller said.

The foundation is only inscribing 60,000 hero names worldwide, and construction will not begin at Allen Station Park until all names have been received.

"As a charitable endeavor, we are reliant upon the public to embrace this monumental effort by inscribing their hero's name," Miller said. "Opportunities like this are rare."

Inscription forms are available on the foundation's Web site www.thecancermonument.org. Starbucks event goers also heard a preview of Miller's upcoming four-part children's book series, *Dog Tales — Cancer Stories For Kids*.

"Through the wisdom of friendly dogs, I wanted to create books that would promote basic cancer prevention and empower kids to take responsibility for their own health and the world around

them," Miller said. "The chances of a child knowing someone with cancer these days are great. The first step towards knowledge and disease prevention is being able to openly say the word cancer."

Dog Tales — Cancer Stories For Kids is written for ages 7 to 10 years. Each book contains activity pages, which reinforce the learning concepts. "Aggie and Rowdy Say 'No Way' To Cigarettes," the second story from the series, will publish with Timberwolf Press in September. P.A.R.Q. Cancer Education Series is Miller's copyright umbrella, in which she is the sole author, principle producer and host of award-winning multimedia projects undertaken on behalf of The Cancer Monument Inc.

Miller's national tour schedule includes appearances in Sarasota, Fla.; Washington D.C.; New York, Philadelphia; and Chicago.

■ For more information, visit www.thecancermonument.org.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE MILLER

A HERO: Local author Michelle Miller poses for a picture during her book signing at a Starbucks location in Allen. Miller signed copies of her book *On My Way to the Cancer Monument*.