

DiBiase agency donates to KershawHealth oncology
October 8, 2014

Larry DiBiase celebrated the 25th anniversary of his State Farm Insurance agency by holding a fundraising cook-out, complete with radio broadcast, games and door prizes at the agency's revamped offices on West DeKalb Street. All proceeds from the event -- \$600 -- went to the KershawHealth Foundation to benefit oncology services at KershawHealth.

"The staff and I just wanted to say 'thank you' to all the people in the community who have been such wonderful supporters of our business and of my family, in particular," DiBiase said. "The staff took charge and put this whole thing together, and we all had a great time."

DiBiase has a long and supportive relationship with KershawHealth oncology services. His late wife, Fran, was a breast cancer patient, and even though they consulted specialists at Duke and in Chicago, she was able to receive virtually all her cancer treatment at KershawHealth. Throughout the process, they both developed a strong bond with the staff and physicians at KershawHealth. "Joan Flynn, Dr. McElveen, and all of the staff were just incredibly supportive," DiBiase said. "They always treated us with warmth and compassion, and offered so much encouragement throughout Fran's battle, and I've always been very grateful for that. It's a calling to be able to do what they do every day."

DiBiase graduated from Newberry College and received his Master's degree from Winthrop University. He was a highly-successful basketball coach at Camden High School, Baptist College (now Charleston Southern University), and at Newberry College. He met Fran, a teacher, while coaching in Camden. She taught at Lugoff Elementary School for many years, and all three of his children, Carmen, Angelo, and Gabriel, attended Kershaw County schools.

After leaving Newberry, DiBiase settled in Camden and started a sports promotion company. He became very close to Charles Nash, who suggested he open a State Farm agency. At the time, DiBiase was older than most of the agents in training, and had fears about translating his coaching skills into a business model.

"I was praying somebody would come in the door, and scared to death they actually would," he said, laughing.

A quarter of a century later, he has one of the most successful agencies around. DiBiase now serves as a member of Newberry College's Board of Trustees and is president of the college's alumni association. He has served on the KershawHealth Foundation Board of Directors, is an active member of the

Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce, and works closely with the local recreation department. In addition, DiBiase is a member of State Farm's President's Club, Legion of Honor, Silver Scroll and Golden Triangle, among others.

(This information provided by KershawHealth.)

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