

## Local mother-daughter team takes on ACS daffodil project

Written by Deb Egenberger

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**Deadline is Feb. 14 to order.**

Everyone agrees that it's been a long, cold winter.

Any sign of an early spring would offer hope that warmer weather is on its way.

Daffodils are one of the earliest flowers to color the world with their yellow buttercups.

That's how the flowers became a symbol for the American Cancer Society. They represent hope for a future where cancer is no longer a life-threatening disease.

Mary Theasmeyer and her daughter Christy Aden, both of Gothenburg, have purchased daffodils during the cancer society's Daffodil Days every year since Christy was a teenager.

"Cancer has affected our lives closely," Theasmeyer said. "I'm not sure there's anyone who hasn't been touched by it in some way."

Daffodil Days is one of the American Cancer Society's oldest fund-raising programs. For more than 30 years, the money raised from daffodil sales has helped fund research for a cure, prevention education and support for those fighting all types of cancer.

Theasmeyer said the daffodil drive each spring has always been available in Gothenburg but there hasn't always been a drive specifically conducted in the city.

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“I know the Women’s Club used to do a drive here,” she said, “but it’s been several years.”

Now Theasmeyer and Aden have taken on the responsibility for the annual daffodil drive.

Despite only having a short time to gather support, the duo has hit the ground running delivering donation brochures to businesses across town as well as church groups, friends and neighbors.

There are several levels of donations available, Theasmeyer said.

For a donation as small as \$10, a donor will receive an individual bouquet of 10 daffodil buds. Several other levels of donation are also available, including a special “bear and bunch” that includes an exclusive Boyds bear and daffodil stems.

Theasmeyer encourages donors to purchase the “gift of hope,” a bouquet of daffodils that is delivered anonymously, or a corporate case of 500 flowers that can be shared with others. “We’ve got a lot of people in the community involved in the Relay for Life,” Theasmeyer said of the American Cancer Society’s annual walk to raise money for cancer research. “We’d like to see strong support for Daffodil Days too.”

Daffodils must be ordered from Theasmeyer or Aden before Sunday. The flowers will be delivered March 12.