

Group hopes to aid fight against cancer with new album release

Disease hits close to home for Carders and members of Teenage Rust ensemble

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■ Intern

(April 17, 2009) In 1981, seven friends got together to form a band, which began as a joke but has become, as singer Madlyn Carder explains, “a caring group of people, each with a reason to help the fight against cancer.”



Madlyn Carder

Now, nearly 30 years later, Teenage Rust and the Fabulous Rustettes, named by founding member Tommy Hiller, continues to perform, though without Hiller, who lost his battle with cancer.



Billy Carder

“We do whatever we can do to help,” Carder said. “Every day, you hear another story — somebody you know is touched with some sort of cancer.”

In 2000, Carder’s husband, Billy, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a cancer that starts in cells of the lymph system, part of the body’s immune system. Since then, the Carders and the staff at their 75th Street restau-



Teenage Rust and the Fabulous Rustettes, together since 1981, will release their first, self-titled CD on Sunday, April 26.

rant, BJ’s on the Water, have held an annual drive to raise money for Relay for Life, a worldwide event sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

“Even if you raise a dollar, they have more than they had before,” Carder said of the fundraiser that, one year, resulted in a \$12,000 donation to Relay for Life.

The couple and members of Teenage Rust also perform each April at BJ’s on the Water to celebrate the community’s efforts to make their annual drive a success. This year’s gathering, however, will be a little more than a benefit show.

On April 26, Teenage Rust and the Fabulous Rustettes — named by Hiller

after his former band, Teenage Lust, because he said members of the new ensemble were a bit rusty with their instruments — will release the group’s first, self-titled CD. The 15-track album costs \$20 and features cover songs, so listeners will be tempted to sing and dance along, Carder said.

“That’s the whole point, for people to come and forget their troubles,” she said. “We pick the best songs we can.”

The cover of the CD, recorded on Super Bowl Sunday with the help of Park Place Recording Studio, shows a photo of the band, with each band member donning a ribbon in the color that repre-

sents the cancer that has touched their life. Proceeds from album sales will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Teenage Rust has been building a steady following of locals over the years. The band accepts the invitation to perform at nearly every charity event they are asked to, Carder said, and it seems their fan base continues to grow with each show.

“We have a great feeling about playing,” she said. “It just works, and it works better every time.”

The CD release party will kick off at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, at BJ’s on the Water, 75th Street and the bay.