

## TULIP SALE AIDS CANCER AWARENESS

Tribute is in memory of Kelly Heinz-Grundner, who died of a brain tumor

By HIRAN RATNAYAKE, The News Journal  
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Chris Grundner never bought his wife roses. Tulips were Kelly Heinz-Grundner's flower of choice.

"I always bought her tulips," he said.

Heinz-Grundner died in 2004 of a malignant brain tumor. The next year, Grundner founded the Kelly Heinz-Grundner Foundation to raise awareness about brain cancer.

The third annual "Tulips Against Tumors" campaign runs through Sep. 21. Supporters of the foundation can buy tulip bulbs for \$10. There are 12 different types. Last year, 200 supporters from 13 states bought more than 12,000 bulbs. About \$7,000 was raised.

Other organizations raise money for brain cancer research, whereas the Grundner foundation focuses on awareness of brain cancer. Almost 19,000 people in the United States were diagnosed with malignant tumors of the brain or spinal cord last year, according

to the American Cancer Society.

"My wife went undiagnosed for six months and we were uneducated about the disease," Grundner said. "When she died, I struggled because it seemed like no one was focused on raising awareness."

In its brief existence, the foundation has raised \$240,000 gross. Delaware City resident Harold Nunley, who was diagnosed in April 2006 with brain cancer, only found out after a seizure caused him to get a CAT scan. He has since been out of work.

"[The foundation] has helped me catch up on my bills and helped pay for my medication," the 35-year-old said.

Many supporters who have bought tulips in the past are now pushing their friends to do so.

Steven Weiler, an attorney in Wilmington, bought bulbs last year. This year he encouraged his family and co-workers to



Susan Grundner (left), a volunteer with the Kelly Heinz-Grundner Brain Tumor Foundation, talks with floral designer Laura Rivell at Flowers by Yukie, where bulbs for the "Tulips Against Tumors Tribute" were being shipped. Bulbs can be ordered online through Sept. 21

buy bulbs as well, in hopes of raising hundreds of dollars for the foundation.

"I have a very dear friend whose mother passed away from brain cancer," he said. "Pretty much everyone has some personal connection."