Forty-five years after graduating from Holyoke High School in 1969, classmates are planning a unique reunion this month.

Instead of a banquet or dance, the class is rallying around fellow classmate Carolyn Sullivan, 62, who was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer at the beginning of this year. They've decided to use their time together to benefit Carolyn, who lives in Longmont.

Just three months earlier, last October, Carolyn's daughter, Wesley Pickering, 39, was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. The plan was that Carolyn would serve as Wesley's primary care provider and help with grandchildren Aly and Kody.

With Carolyn living with Wesley and her family, Carolyn's own recent diagnosis has had a huge impact on the household of four as they attempt to stay strong.

Benefit planned Feb. 22

A benefit involving a soup supper and silent auction is planned for Saturday, Feb. 22 from 6-8 p.m. at the Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 18 S. Sunset in Longmont.

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Holyoke Enterprise February 13, 2014

HHS Class of '69 to support classmate battling cancer

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt