

Home Front

News from the Washington Regional Cancer Support Home • Summer / Fall 2008

LOOKING GOOD

Boutique a Helpful Resource During Cancer Treatment

In a cozy little room with unassuming soft-beige walls, something magical happens.

"It was like a makeover," marvels Tina about her visit to the Cancer Support Home boutique. At age 43, Tina lost her hair during chemotherapy treatment for pancreatic cancer. Finding just the right wig helped her deal with one of the most visible changes brought about by cancer. "Wearing the wig made me feel like I wasn't set apart from everybody else."

And while most women choose a wig similar to their natural hair color and style, Tina had other ideas. "My real hair was long, blonde and curly but I picked out an auburn wig that is sassy, straight and stylish. I really like it."

Last year, boutiques at the Cancer Support Home locations in Bentonville and Fayetteville provided free wigs, caps, turbans and scarves to more than 288 patients during their cancer treatment, as well as post-mastectomy bras, supplies and breast prostheses to 112 women after their breast cancer surgery.

"Although we send patients to the Cancer Support Home for many different reasons, we mostly send our patients for wigs and head coverings, as well as breast prostheses, bras and lymphedema supplies," says Tracy Thurow, director of nursing at Highlands Oncology Group in Fayetteville. "Hair loss is traumatic for many women," she says. "Likewise, women who lose a breast due to

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In the Boutique

The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Auxiliary recently provided \$8,720 to purchase wigs, scarves and post-mastectomy supplies for the Cancer Support Home boutique. Auxiliary grants are funded in part by the Partners Card program. Partners Cards offer a 20 percent discount at more than 55 stores in Northwest Arkansas, and are available for \$50 each by calling 521-8031. Looking at some of the new wigs purchased with Auxiliary grant money are (L to R): Tareneh Manning of the Partners Card program, Susan Schallhorn of the Auxiliary and Gina Maddox, Trace Henley and Sherri Brown of the Cancer Support Home.

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surgical intervention for cancer can experience both a sense of loss and body image issues.”

Over and above the emotional effects, proper head coverings can protect the cancer patient against loss of body heat and from exposure to ultraviolet rays. Breast prostheses may have the physical benefits of adding protection to the surgical site, aiding in balance and posture, and can help prevent muscle pain and shoulder drop due to the reduction in weight from loss of a breast. Lymphedema supplies available through the boutique include compression sleeves and gloves that can help prevent a permanent and painful swelling of the arm that about 25 percent of breast cancer surgery patients experience.

A number of local retail stores that specialize in these items – offering a wide selection of wigs and certified fitters for bras and prostheses – are valuable partners with the Cancer Support Home and have provided assistance to the boutiques through

sponsorships or special pricing. Head coverings and post-mastectomy supplies are often covered by health insurance, and these stores can file claim forms for their customers. But for those patients who do not have insurance, or cannot find what they are looking for at the retail shops, the Cancer Support Home boutiques fill a vital need.

“It is such a relief to our patients to be able to use the Cancer Support Home while not having to pay for these services,” Tracy says. “It relieves the financial burden that they carry.”

The boutique at each Cancer Support Home location offers a private fitting room in a homelike environment. Staff and volunteers strive to offer each client personal and individualized service, understanding that the client may be feeling overwhelmed and nervous. “The Cancer Support Home volunteers and staff open their hearts to our patients and put them at ease when they come in seeking their services. They create a positive experience,”

Tracy says. Tina agrees. “At first, I thought going to the boutique would be intimidating. But then I saw how comfortable it is.”

Through the years, funding for the boutiques has come from a variety of sources, including the Cancer Challenge, Susan G. Komen for the Cure - Ozark Affiliate, Wal-Mart/SAM’s Club Foundation, Nadine Baum Foundation and the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Auxiliary. Other support comes in the form of donated items. For instance, several local church groups and craftspeople supply turbans and knitted caps, and many women donate their wigs after they complete their cancer treatment. Those donated wigs are sent to Fayetteville Beauty College, where students give them a fresh style for the next boutique client.

Tina says she is grateful that the Cancer Support Home boutique was there to serve her needs. “The boutique is an asset for all women who are going through cancer treatment,” she says. “Patients should try it. That place is awesome.”

An Encouraging Word

The work we do here at the Cancer Support Home is not about winning trophies or being in the spotlight. But we were honored recently when the Cancer Support Home was invited to Little Rock to accept the Josetta Wilkins Award for excellence in providing education and promoting breast cancer awareness.

The award is sponsored annually by *BreastCare*, a program of the Arkansas Department of Health that provides free breast and cervical cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment to Arkansas women who have little or no health insurance. The award is named for former state Rep. Josetta Wilkins, who was instrumental in passing Arkansas’s Breast Cancer Control Act of 1997. Cancer Support Home staff traveled to Little Rock in April for the awards ceremony, which took place in conjunction with the Arkansas Cancer Summit. There, we had a chance to hear Rep. Wilkins passionately encourage women to be vigilant about their breast health and that of their daughters, mothers, sisters, friends.

We saw this event as an opportunity to educate other breast health advocates throughout the state about the Cancer Support Home and its *No Excuses* Breast Cancer Outreach Program. In 2007, more than 260 women received a free breast cancer screening through the program, and more than 170 women received follow-up breast imaging services such as mammograms and breast MRIs. Hundreds more women received important educational information about breast health.

The opportunity for early detection, like that offered through the *No Excuses* program, is key to cancer survival. And we think that’s a point worth spotlighting.



Sherri Brown
Program Assistant



Susan Earnest, RN
Breast Care Navigator



Audra Flammang
Education and Screening
Coordinator



Trace Henley
Program Coordinator



Gina Maddox
Program Manager

Support Groups

CLIMB (for children who have a loved one with cancer)
Please call 479-571-4673 for details.

Coping & Conversation

Every Wednesday at noon
Fayetteville Cancer Support Home

Hispanic Women with Cancer

Fourth Monday each month at 6 p.m.
Fayetteville Cancer Support Home

SPOHNC (Support for People with Oral, Head and Neck Cancer)

Third Saturday each month at 10 a.m.
Fayetteville Cancer Support Home

Survivors Circle

Third Monday each month at 5:30 p.m.
Fayetteville Cancer Support Home

Women with Cancer

Second Monday each month at 5:30 p.m.
Bentonville Cancer Support Home

Young Breast Cancer Survivors

Last Thursday each month at 5:30 p.m.
Fayetteville Cancer Support Home

For more information about any of these meetings please call 479-521-8024. Interpretation is available at the Spanish language hotline, 479-713-7921. All support groups are confidential.

Golf Tournament to Benefit Cancer Support Home

The 16th Annual Washington Regional Golf Classic is scheduled for Monday, September 22, and Tuesday, September 23, at Paradise Valley Athletic Club in Fayetteville.

The Washington Regional Classic has long been a favorite tournament in Northwest Arkansas because it is fun, affordable and offers great prizes. But even more importantly, this year the proceeds of the tournament will go to the Washington Regional Cancer Support Home to help provide free cancer education, early-detection screening and patient support services in our community.

 **Washington
Regional**



2008 CLASSIC

The tournament format is 4-person scramble and will feature three separate sessions of play: Monday morning, Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. Registration fee is \$150 per person/\$600 per team and includes lunch and refreshments. There will be exciting hole-in-one opportunities on each of the par-three holes, and participants can test their skills in longest drive, closest to the pin and putting contests. Register online today at www.wregional.com!

For more information or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please call Washington Regional Foundation at 479-444-9888.



Cancer Support Home staff members accept the Joretta Wilkins Award April 15 at the Arkansas Cancer Summit in Little Rock (see article on page 2). Pictured L - R: (back row) Trace Henley and Susan Earnest of the Cancer Support Home and Barbara Hager, BreastCare program director; (front row) Dr. Paul Halverson, Arkansas Department of Health director, Audra Flammang and Gina Maddox of the Cancer Support Home, Rep. Joretta Wilkins and Kevin Kelly, KLRT-TV news anchor and program emcee.

Our Mission

The mission of the Washington Regional Cancer Support Home is to provide hope and comfort to those learning to live with cancer. Through our two locations, we offer free community education about healthy lifestyles and cancer prevention; early-detection screenings; and patient support services such as a breast care navigator, boutique with wigs and post-mastectomy supplies, support groups, overnight guestrooms, resource library and prescription assistance.

www.wregional.com/csh

1101 N. Woolsey Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703
(479) 521-8024

306 Highway 72 East
Bentonville, AR 72712
(479) 271-2257

Gifts

Gifts listed are from January - June 2008. Remembering or honoring someone with a gift to the Cancer Support Home helps provide free cancer education, early-detection screening and support services.

In Memory of

LORI ADAMS
Renee Kujawa

CHUCKY BULLOCK
Charles Bullock

HOLLY COX
Carl Cox

EARL CZESCHIN
Cara Czeschin

BARBARA GARRIOTT
Richard Anderson

Barbara Brannan
Dyan Brannon

John E. Fox
Jimmy Garriott

Don Garriott
Charles & Gloria Hancock

Gordon Jacobs
Mary Ellen Jones

LaRue Mabry
Harold McKinney

Herbert & Gloria McPherson
James & Janita Moore

Charlene Mooty
Jackie & Judy Perkins

Ruth Robertson
Neil & Carolyn Schmitt

Paul & Doris Smith
Ann Smitherman

Tom & Linda Townsend
Jackson & Mary Jane White

Mary Wright

WALT GILBERTSON

Christy Allen

Vicky Cooper

Katherine Gay

Sherry Gilbertson

Robin Gray

Susan Hickey

Rick & Shirley Johanson

Rebecca Kaldem

Leslie Ligon

Deborah Maddox

Donna McKinney

Lisa Marie Norris

Elaine Olszewski

Bobby E. Shepherd

Spencer Singleton

STEVE HARRELD

Jack & Mary Harreld

ROSALIE INGRAM

Charles & Anita Penn

LUCILLE MCDANIEL

Leona Westman

BERNICE PLUMMER

Allyce Johnson

EDITH TAFF

Lois Archer

FRED THEISS

Jack & Mary Harreld

CLYDEAN WHITE

Herb & Charlotte Kermuck

Sandra May

David & Carol Morris

SHIRLEY WHITNEY

Sheri Dewitt

In Honor of

DIANA GIBEAU

Jan Thompson

MAISIE MANNING

Leigh Barham

ROD MCGUIRE

Phyllis McGuire

SIBYL STROUP

Pat Grove

Contributions

Bertha Acosta

Mary Ann Alderson

Anne Beer

Cookie Bonds

Marion & Wilma Bruffett

Donnie Bumgarner

Linda Bush

Mary Cole

Pam Cullums

Gayle Deaver

Tom Dolan

Donnie Escalanta

Harley & Darlene Gibbs

Thomas Luney

Mildred Makki

Joanne Martin

Frances McCulley

Ruth Morris

Nettie Peynor

Irena Woods Ptasynski

Willard Slater

Marjette Smith

Wal-Mart Distribution Center #6094

Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market, Bentonville

Wal-Mart Supercenter, Berryville

Wal-Mart Supercenter Mall Avenue, Fayetteville

Vickie White

Gifts in Kind

Kris Addington

Lois Archer

Bella Vista Quilters Guild

Rebecca Bender

Beryl Baptist Church

Sherri Brown

Choice Medical Supply

Mary Cole

Jenny Coogan

Corrinna Briggs Graphics

Diane Deavers

Fellowes, Inc.

FirstStaff, Fayetteville

Kathryn Franks

FujiFilm, Inc.

Pat Grove

Peggy Holman

Hooks & Needles Club

LuAnn Johnson

Connie Knafla

Billie Logue

Phyllis McGuire

Vera McLean

Michelle Michaelson

Nick & Shelly Mitchell

Constance Mix

Deborah Ann Payne

Sherry Read

Cindy Roberts

SAM's Club, Fayetteville

Mary Schreiber

Donna Scoppa

Vicky Stobaugh

Mary Tompkins

Jane Vest

Linda Vestal

Ann Voll

Wal-Mart Distribution Center #6094

Wal-Mart Supercenter #4

Wal-Mart Vision Center, Springdale

Anna Weaver

Judy Wheeler

Suzanne Woolsey

Chuck Wood

Zaxby's

Gertrude Zeglar

Grants

Bank of America

Cancer Challenge

Susan G. Komen for the Cure - Ozark Affiliate

Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer

Institute Auxiliary

Volunteers Recognized at Appreciation Dinner

With the help of many dedicated volunteers, Cancer Support Home programs touched the lives of more than 20,000 people last year. Our front-desk volunteers - who answer telephones, greet guests and assist patients in the boutique and library - were honored at a dinner April 29 during **Volunteer Appreciation Week**. Each volunteer's length of service was noted, and those with at least one year's service received a certificate. Kim Emerson and Marge Miller received special recognition for having served 1,000 hours at the Cancer Support Home in Bentonville.

Thirteen Years

Butch Clinton
Jenny Coogan
Nina Luther

Eleven Years

Susannah Porter
Pat Owens
Mary Ryan

Ten Years

Jo Woodruff

Nine Years

Joan Campbell

Eight Years

Amy Berenbrok

Seven Years

Kim Emerson
Virginia Hicks

Six Years

Mary Harreld
Marge Miller

Five Years

Mary Bublitz
Joan Hirnisey

Four Years

Rodney Ryan

Three Years

Edith Garland

Two Years

Lindsey Baker
Linda Basquez
Brittany Gillespie
Clydean Lowery
Robin Morrow

One Year

Audrey Bearden
Pat Schmidt
Nathan Schreiber



Dorothy Bryant (left) accompanied her friend, Bentonville volunteer Edith Garland, to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner April 29.

Volunteers Vital to Screening Program

Our free early-detection cancer screening program is an integral part of our mission, and serves more than 1,000 people each year. We are grateful to the medical professionals, Spanish-language interpreters and others who volunteered their expertise in the past year for our screening clinics:

Johnny Adkins, MD
Linda Basquez
Marty Brooks, RN
Mary Bublitz, RN
Lorena Ellet
Kimberly Gall, RN
Cecile Gilson
Maria Angelica Gonzalez
Todd Hannah, MD
Randall Hightower, MD
Karina Hurtado
Sharon Luedecke
Jamie McCoullough, RN

Lori Oswalt, APN
David Ratcliff, MD
Lawrence Schmidt, MD
Teresa Sellers, RN
Margaret Sexton, APN
Stephen Shaddox, MD
David Shenker, MD
Bill Tate, MD
Rita Ticer
Patty Tisdale, APN
Ruth Turner
Bertha Vineta

We welcome our newest front-desk volunteers, and others who helped us with special projects throughout the year:

Scott Alaniz	Jason Pelton
Dianna Alaniz	Don Preston
William Carter	Nikki Primm
Chandrani Chatterjee	Julie Reavis
Cindy Cooper	Courtney Seigler
Mary Ford	Dana Serrano
Kim Fulmer	Matt Speer
Evan Harsh	Barbara Tadlock
Derry Jacob	Kelly Taylor
Kathryn Lamb	Josh Tennyson
Jan Larkey	Carie Tsai
Dwayne Lee	Kandis Wilborn
Joyce Lundstrum	Lauren Wilson
Mary Minton	

**Free
Cancer
Screenings**

Breast Exam Clinic

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturday, October 11
Bentonville Cancer Support Home
Call 479-271-2257 to register.

Colorectal Cancer Screening Kits

are still available at both Cancer Support Home locations. Stop by and pick up one of these easy-to-use home testing kits.

Calendar of Events

August 26

Clinical Staff Luncheon

12:30 p.m.

City Coffee Company, Siloam Springs

Call 479-271-2257 for information.

September 8

Partners Card Sales Kickoff

Cards good for 20% discount

October 25 - November 2

at 55 area stores.

Call 479-521-8031 for information.

September 13

Cancer Challenge Motorcycle Poker Run

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NWACC, Bentonville

Visit www.cancerchallenge.com

for information.

September 22-23

Washington Regional

Golf Classic

Paradise Valley Athletic Club,

Fayetteville

Call 479-444-9888

for information.

October 6

Look Good, Feel Better®

9 a.m. - Fayetteville

Call 479-521-8024

to register.

November 3

Look Good, Feel Better®

9:30 a.m. - Bentonville

Call 479-271-2257

to register.

Hope and Comfort

A letter of recommendation that accompanied the Cancer Support Home's nomination for the Josetta Wilkins Award read in part:

The staff and volunteers feel it is their duty to make everyone who is in contact with the Home feel welcome and good about finding a support system and people who care.

They believe it is their shared responsibility to make any individual affiliated with the Home more engaged about cancer awareness ...

They have made great strides in their efforts to serve women of all ethnic backgrounds. This has made me extremely proud of the staff.

HomeFront is published twice a year for friends of the Cancer Support Home, including contributors, event participants, medical professionals and other community leaders. If you do not wish to receive this publication, or if you have suggestions for **HomeFront**, please call Gina Maddox at 479-521-8024.