

Your Partner in Health

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

As the area leader in women's health services, Port Huron Hospital is well known and respected for its breast cancer services – from its Breast Imaging Center of Excellence in Women's Wellness Place, to its treatment programs and support groups. The hospital has a number of special programs in October, including free mammograms for women who have never had a screening mammogram and have no health insurance or are unable to afford a mammogram.

Thomas DeFauw, President and Chief Executive Officer

Unique photo display is an inspirational tribute to breast cancer survivors

As it prepares to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month throughout October, Port Huron Hospital has turned the first floor hallway of the Wismer Health Center into a permanent gallery displaying inspirational photos of breast cancer survivors.

Strength Through Survival: A Pictorial Celebration of the Triumph Over Breast Cancer is a collection of 52 portraits by local photographer Rose Norton that will be rotated through the display on a regular basis. Created in 2007, this display highlights local breast cancer survivors in black and white photographs, accompanied by a short essay of the individual's breast cancer journey.

The photo collection was donated to Port Huron Hospital by the Renee Tunison Foundation. The foundation is named for Renee Tunison, who, during

her lifetime,
dedicated herself to the
fight against breast cancer. Her husband
Jim established the foundation to continue
his wife's work by funding breast cancer
awareness programs, community service
projects, hospice and drug awareness programs
and beautification initiatives throughout St. Clair

"It was my greatest honor to meet these women in the hope of presenting their stories so that others might be encouraged to continue to meet the challenge of a breast cancer diagnosis," Rose says in her introduction of the pictorial display.

"These stories aren't just photos and stories," says Stacey Dimmer, whose photo is included in the series. "These are real stories about real, everyday women and their families."

Breast cancer survivor Stacey
Dimmer is pictured with her
Portugese water dogs in
this photo by Rose Norton.
Stacey was diagnosed with
stage 3 breast cancer in
2005. During her journey,
Stacey started journaling,
keeping track of the many
things that surprised
her along the way. She
turned this information
into a book published in
2010. K.I.S.S -- Keeping



It Sanely Simple, A Breast Cancer Guide (the stuff nobody tells you) is intended to take the reader by the hand and lead her step-by-step through her journey. It includes terminology, a decision tree, questions to ask, and numerous solutions for everyday obstacles. "If your girlfriend, sister or mother is diagnosed with breast cancer," she says, "I hope that instead of giving her pink fuzzy slippers, you reach for this book to support her through the days and months ahead. You can give her the slippers later." Stacey's book is included in the educational materials given to women who are newly diagnosed with breast cancer at Women's Wellness Place.

Visit www.porthuronhospital.org/breasthealth for a list of breast cancer awareness programs.

I ittle Rlack Dress henefits Port Huron Hosnital's Look Good Feel Better program



y Kearns, from breast cancer, her family wanted omething in her memory that would help others east cancer. The result was the Little Black event, a fundraiser first held in 2007 to benefit cancer services. It has been held annually since. auxiliaries of Port Huron Hospital and St. Joseph cy Port Huron recently joined the Kearns family oordinate of the fundraiser. Following the 2012 it, the Kearns family presented Port Huron pital with a check for \$9,500 to help support st cancer programs in Women's Wellness Place specifically to help fund the hospital's American er Society Look Good, Feel Better program.

Jackie Keams Makensen, Thomas DeFauw, Carolyn Kearns Bonacci, & Maureen Kearns MacCallum

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