



Providing Cancer Support in Western Connecticut and Eastern New York

## Growth at Ann's Place: Serving More People Than Ever

The statistics alone are impressive. Ann's Place is now serving an average of 550 people each month – an increase of more than 150 clients a month over the same period last year.

But behind the statistics is something far more impressive – the powerful impact Ann's Place continues to have on the men, women and children who come through the doors of the agency every day.

Some come to Ann's Place to talk one-on-one with a trained counselor about their cancer diagnosis; some come to join with other people in a support group, where solutions are forged; others come for wellness programs such as yoga or art therapy. Families come to Ann's Place for group counseling and couples programs; children come for sessions with our therapy dog; men and women come to voice their concern, share information, and support one another as they deal with the life-changing force of cancer in their lives.

All of these services, offered under one roof, are available to anyone living with cancer – whether they are newly diagnosed, currently in treatment, a long-term survivor, or the family member or friend of someone with cancer. And all of these services are available free of charge at Ann's Place through the generosity of the donors and volunteers listed in this report.

Without the consistent, caring commitment of our community, Ann's Place would not be able to keep its doors open, let alone thrive and grow to meet the needs of our neighbors. For your part in sustaining this agency's vital mission of providing comfort, support and hope to people living with cancer, we thank you.



# Volunteer Pam Berry Helps Families Cope with Cancer

After a long day in a high-stress job, most people head home, looking for refuge and relaxation. But Pam Berry, who works as a family relations counselor for the Superior Court in Danbury – dealing with high-conflict cases of child custody and visitation – comes to Ann’s Place, where she volunteers as a support group facilitator.

“I am energized by the group,” Pam said. “It reminds me of the positive side of people – how helpful people can be to one another, even when they are going through some tough times themselves.”

Pam, a Ridgefield resident who holds a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a master’s degree in Counseling, has volunteered at Ann’s Place for six years, leading two different support groups – “Transitions,” a group for people who have lost someone to cancer, and “Partners,” a group for spouses of men living with prostate cancer.

“When someone you love has cancer and you go through it with them, it’s like having the disease yourself because you’re so involved in that person’s care,” Pam said. “The people in group reinforce each other and know that they’re coping with some tough issues and they’re really doing well.”

Transitions usually has a mix of participants – people who have recently lost a loved one, and others who are grieving someone who died two or three years ago, Pam said.

“It’s not unusual for an anniversary or other event coming up to trigger feelings, and sometimes that will bring people back to the group,” Pam said. “Often times those returning people will interact with someone who recently lost a husband or a wife, and they both leave the group with a new perspective. That common experience is without a doubt what brings them together and allows them to help one another.”

In Partners, the participants tend to focus on the issues that impact their husbands’ recovery from prostate cancer, Pam said.

“They are all very involved in their husbands’ care,” Pam said. “I try to



get them to look at it from the other side, and bring the discussion around to how it is affecting them. The women who come to the group have no problem dealing with any issue that comes up, and they will talk very openly with one another.”

For Pam, whose day job requires her to work with people forced by the courts to face issues in their personal relationships, her volunteer position at Ann’s Place offers her a different view of people coping.

“They’re not compelled to come to group, but they want to come, and they help the other members. They’re determined and they are really getting something out of it,” Pam said. “That’s so refreshing and so inspiring.”

Like many volunteers at Ann’s Place, Pam first connected with the agency because people in her life were dealing with cancer.

“Once I got involved with Ann’s Place, I was hooked. It’s such a great organization. I love the clients, the staff, the volunteers; everybody works together so well. There’s a consistent drive to work together as a team for the common goal.”

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## New Group Focuses on Couples

Recognizing the fact that cancer impacts the entire family, Ann's Place has long offered programs for children, spouses and caregivers of those diagnosed.

Now, "Couples," the newest support group at Ann's Place, is geared toward dealing with issues that may arise in relationships when one partner has cancer.

The group is led by facilitator Lisa Furman, MA-AT, who has done extensive research on the impact of a cancer diagnosis on couples. Lisa works with the couples developing effective strategies for dealing with the issues involved.

If you are interested in participating in Couples, which meets monthly in the evening, please call Ann's Place at 203-790-6568 for details.



## Senior Women Meet for Coffee & Conversation

A new daytime group at Ann's Place, called "Coffee & Conversation," offers an opportunity for senior women dealing with cancer-related issues to meet in a relaxed setting.

The group, led by agency Co-Founder Mary Burke, meets monthly during the mid-morning hours. For details on joining Coffee & Conversation, please call Ann's Place at 203-790-6568.

For Information on the Therapy Dog Program at Ann's Place, please call 203-790-6568. For information on Therapy Dogs International, Inc. call 973-252-9800, or visit them at [www.tdi-dog.org](http://www.tdi-dog.org).

## Tapestry of Hope Book is a Big Hit!



Volunteer Nikki Foster, Ann's Place Program Director Margie Blake, Clinical Director Su Murdock & Co-Founder Mary Burke compiled and edited *Tapestry of Hope*.

Just four months after it was printed, nearly 1,000 copies of *Tapestry of Hope*, the book written and illustrated by local cancer survivors and edited by Ann's Place staff and volunteers, have been circulated to people living with cancer.

Following a book release reception at Tarrywile Mansion in Danbury in March, copies of *Tapestry of Hope* were distributed free of charge through Ann's Place, Danbury Hospital, and local medical offices. Copies of the book were also given out to participants at the June 5 National Cancer Survivor's Day breakfast celebration.

Production of the book was made possible by a grant from the Albert Wadsworth & Helen Clark Meserve Memorial Foundation Fund and funding from Paul P. Dinto, President & CEO of Paul Dinto Electrical Contractors, Inc., and Vice-President of the Board of Directors of Ann's Place; and the Danbury Cultural Commission.

Additional copies will be distributed at area Mutual Security Credit Union branches, thanks to funding from MSCU through Larry Holderman, CEO of MSCU and a member of the Ann's Place Board of Directors.

Demand for *Tapestry of Hope*, based on the success of the first printing, has led to second printing of the book. Copies of the book's second printing are available at Ann's Place for a suggested donation of \$12.

tree decorator or volunteer, please call Ann's Place at 203-790-6568.

## Family Fun at the Festival of Trees & Traditions

The second annual Festival of Trees & Traditions, held Nov. 12-14 at the Ethan Allen Hotel, brought together thousands of people from Greater Danbury to launch the holiday season and support the programs at Ann's Place.

The Festival, chaired by Susan Chabot and Shirley LaPine, was a huge success thanks to our generous sponsors, volunteers and our caring community.

Featuring the display and sale of more than 100 beautifully decorated trees and wreaths, shopping at the Holiday Boutique and Quilter's Corner, Teddy Bear Tea Parties for children, and live music and dance performances, the Festival was a full weekend of fun and excitement.

We thank all who contributed to the Festival – from our major sponsors and hard-working Festival Committee, to those who created the wonderful trees, the musicians and dancers who donated their time to entertain us, and everyone who bought a ticket to the event. We hope you had a great time and we look forward to seeing you at the 2005 Festival.

Planning for the 2005 Festival is now underway. Anyone interested in participating as a sponsor,



Beth Ann Fetzer and Michelle James examine a tree of jewels at the 2004 Festival.

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Samantha Pandolfi

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John and Terri-Ann Martocci enjoy a moment by the Danbury Hospital/Praxair Cancer Center holiday tree.

Name of the deceased is in **Blue**, with donors listed below.

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Thank you to all our supporters who have given generously over the past few years to our Capital Campaign under the leadership of David W. Nurnberger, Vice President of Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals. Late into 2004, we moved to a new Phase II of the campaign, based on the incredibly generous gift of 4.1 acres of land from the Woodlands Group II in The Reserve, a westside planned neighborhood development. Special thanks to Tony Lucera, Richard Krall, Glen Tatangelo and their core of investors for this Saw Mill Road property. Ted Haddad, Sr. kindly connected the donors to Ann's Place and, with this gift, we went back to the drawing board.

Our Building Chairman, Paul P. Dinto, CEO of Paul Dinto Electrical Contractors, Inc., is assembling an amazing team to execute the project, once we have final approvals. The building design is now in its final stages, thanks to the valuable In-Kind donation of architect John Doyle of DCA Architects & Planners. The fund-raising goal for our Phase II drive is \$800,000.

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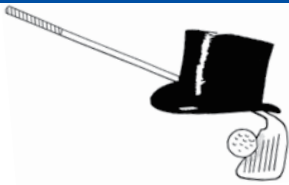
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## Upcoming Events & Programs

**June 20:** 10th Annual Ladies Golf Tournament - Richter Park, Danbury

**July 16:** Survivor's Retreat Day at the Mercy Center - Call for details

**Sept 12:** Ann Olsen Greater Danbury Golf Classic - Ridgewood Country Club, Danbury

**Nov 11-13:** Festival of Trees & Traditions - Starr Ridge Banquet & Conference Center, 38 Starr Ridge Road, Brewster  
**\*\* New Location for 2005**

**For more information call 203-790-6568**

I CAN, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) publicly supported non-profit organization and operates Ann's Place, The Home of I CAN.

The Mission of I CAN is to provide comfort and support to cancer survivors and their families and friends.



Ann's Place, The Home of I CAN depends entirely on community support and does not charge a fee for service.



In this Issue: 2004 Donor Report



Address Correction Requested

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