

## **Cancer patients find relief, support**

By Theresa Knapp Enos

Special Writer

MIDDLEBORO - Manifest A Miracle is a cancer support extension of Enchanted Gardens Pathways to Healing, a holistic health center located at 17 South Main St. in Middleboro center, and operated by Rose Ewas and Maureen Hancock.

Manifest a Miracle was created when Maureen Hancock was created when Maureen Hancock was on the Board of Complimentary Therapy at Old Colony Hospice. The Hospice board was creating a package to offer cancer patients to provide them with additional pain relief and, if necessary, a peaceful transistion from this world. At the time, both Ms. Ewas and Ms. Hancock were offering holistic treatments from their homes, but the demand was so great that they created this foundation.

Ms. Ewas and Ms. Hancock are able to provide cancer patients with alternative holistic remedies to compliment the conventional treatments patients receive from their medical doctors. Practitioners offer everything from dietary recommendations to guided imagery, meditation, stress management and relaxation strategies. Ms. Ewas is a certified licensed hypnotherapist, Reiki master and stress management teacher. Ms Hancock is a certified licensed Asian bodywork therapist, Reiki master and stress management teacher.

Together these women offer cancer patients the tools to activate their inner healing power.

"We teach them how to relax, breathe properly and build their immune system which is most important when fighting cancer," said Ms. Hancock, who also teaches patients to laugh by incorporating her experience as a former stand-up comedian.

Ms. Ewas uses hypnotherapy to help clients achieve pain relief and processing their pain. For example, she recently created a hypnotherapy tape for a bone marrow transplant recipient before his operation to help his body process and accept the new marrow. "The subconscious is very powerful," she said. "What I do is plant a seed in their head that says, 'The treatment is going to succeed, your going to be open to total success, total healing.'

After the operation, Ms. Hancock went into the bone marrow transplant unit at Brigham & Women's to offer Reiki relief at the patient's bedside.

Ms. Ewas believed that doctors are recognizing the mind-body connection and are becoming more open to Eastern treatments, often when they have exhausted all other conventional treatments. Ms. Hancock says she has administered Shiatsu (acupressure) on patients who are going through chemotherapy and those patients keep their hair and maintain their strength. One such patient is John Gamache of New Bedford.

Mr. Gamache is a certified public accountant in his mid-40's who is married with three children. He has been fighting various types of cancer off and on since 1998 and is currently fighting colon cancer. He receives regular chemotherapy treatments at Dana Farber. In June, he was placed on a special liquid diet when his tumor began to pinch off his intestines, and in August, he was introduced to Manifest A Miracle through a mutual friend of Ms. Hancock's. Now, as he continues his conventional treatments, he sees Ms. Hancock once a week.

"Since she's been involved, I've been much more active," Mr. Gamache said. "Basically,



from June to August I wasn't able to go outside the house. I was bedridden. I wasn't making any progress. Now, I'm lifting weights, riding a stationary bicycle, and have regular visitors to my house." Mr. Gamache is able to maintain an active role in his family's day to day activities.

**(To the right Manifest A Miracle's Maureen Hancock works with lung cancer patient Carmella Preston of West Bridgewater. Manifest A Miracle is the support extension of Enchanted Garden Pathways to Healing, a holistic health center located at 17 South Main Street, Middleboro. Gazette Photo by Theresa Enos)**

The regular activities such as going to the bank and grocery store were difficult tasks for Carmella Preston, 71, of West Bridgewater. Mrs. Preston was diagnosed with cancer three years ago when doctors found spots on her lungs and liver. She has been on chemotherapy and a new experimental medication to treat her illness and, for the last four months, has been seeing Ms. Hancock.

"Maureen has helped me so much," Mrs. Preston said. "She makes me feel more hopeful, more peaceful inside." Before, I did not want to leave the house because my feet hurt and I was afraid of being sick."

Mrs. Preston stresses the importance of a positive attitude in the fight to combat her illness and the reliance on faith. "Faith is the greatest tool we have." Since Mrs. Preston began receiving treatments, she reports less severe reactions to chemotherapy, her stomach is better and her feet do not bother her as much. Overall, Mrs. Preston feels great improvement. "I go out now," she said. "gets you through the difficult times," she said. Faith and prayer are very important aspects of the work of Manifest A Miracle. If desired, a practitioner can incorporate a patient's religious beliefs into treatment to make it a very powerful experience for them. In addition, the foundation provides distance healing when a practitioner cannot get to a patient right away.

"That is a big part of what we do and we do it in a specific Reiki way," Ms. Ewas said.

"We're picturing the person - sometimes we hold an object in front of us and put our hands on what would represent a part of their body. I also combine it with prayer, which is really powerful in healing."

Diana Wesoloski of Arlington was one woman who invoked the power of prayer in her fight with cancer. At a time when she was supporting her mother through lung cancer, Ms. Wesoloski was diagnosed with an aggressive case of breast cancer. She was 32 years old, the mother of three young children. She was immediately scheduled for a full mastectomy at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Through a mutual friend, Ms. Hancock learned of Ms. Wesoloski's situation and, two nights before the mastectomy, Ms. Hancock traveled to Ms. Wesoloski's house to administer treatment. "I was so scared and stressed and, after the first treatment, I felt awesome," Ms. Wesoloski said. "My body felt so much stronger. I just felt like I was able to focus and deal with what was going to happen to me because the stress was gone."

Ms. Hancock combined Asian bodywork, Reiki, guided visualization and meditation to activate this patient's healing abilities and to increase her immune system to give her energy to accept the treatment. Regarding the guided meditation, Ms. Wesoloski said, "It was a bizarre feeling. She never touched my body, but it felt as if she had worked directly on my body, like I could feel the heat from her hands."

Ms. Wesoloski had a full mastectomy, all her lymph nodes removed, and all tests came

back negative. She says the doctors were baffled by the results and, in fact, thought the results were incorrect. The medical staff could not explain it any other way and actually called her recovery a miracle.

Today, she has been cancer-free for five years and also has a fourth child.

It's miracles such as these that inspire Ms. Ewas and Ms. Hancock to continue their work through Manifest A Miracle.

"I have seen life extensions in this work and actual miracles. Even if it's only pain relief, that's great. If a miracle is meant to happen, then that's wonderful too. We leave it in God's hands." says Ms. Hancock.

Another important part of any cancer treatment is support of the family. Manifest A Miracle offers support to a patient's family through treatment strategy meetings as which the family forms a unified front to fight the war called cancer. Says Ms. Hancock, "Whether it's a fight to fight the cancer or to ease the transition, we give them the inspiration and the tools they need to fight their fight." The foundation also sponsors bereavement support groups for families to cope with the loss of a loved one. Manifest A Miracle hopes to add more practitioners as time and money allow. Donations are key to the success and growth of the foundation, since all services are provided with donation-based monies at no cost to the patient. Funds are donated by corporate or individual sponsors who can earmark their donation for a specific patient requiring services, to the general fund or can be made in memory of a loved one. Also, the Gift of Healing (gift certificates) are available for gift-giving. All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, contact Manifest A Miracle at 508-923-4788, [www.thepathwaystohealing.com](http://www.thepathwaystohealing.com), or visit Enchanted Garden Pathways to Healing at 17 South Main Street in Middleboro Center.