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Group helps women in Alpharetta 'feel beautiful'

by Pheobe Bumsted



A group of girls reveal the bracelets they created through Feel Beautiful Today. (click for larger version)



A Feel Beautiful Today volunteer helps a cancer patient create a bracelet through the art therapy workshop. (click for larger version)

September 24, 2012

ALPHARETTA, Ga. – Feel Beautiful Today has donated over 1,000 "boxes of love" to hospitals in the community, including Atlanta Cancer Care and DeKalb Medical.

The nonprofit organization is designed to help women with cancer by providing them with handcrafted pieces of jewelry.

"The mission is to bring hope, love and encouragement to women and girls affected by cancer," Biviana Franco, the Feel Beautiful Today founder, said.

Feel Beautiful Today began two years ago, when Franco wished to bring a smile to a friend and honor to her aunt. From its humble beginnings, FBT has grown to benefit numerous women in both the receiving and giving of unique pieces of jewelry.

The group organizes two programs, boxes of love as well as an art therapy workshop.

They gather volunteers for regular meetings where they create the boxes of love. Each box contains a bracelet or pair of earrings as well as an inspirational message. Franco designs the jewelry as well as the pattern on the top of the box, both of which are symbolic.

"I'm an artist and I'm just trying to use [my talent] to do something good for others," she said.

Feel Beautiful Today also hosts an art therapy program in local hospitals where patients and their family members can create their own jewelry for themselves or their loved ones.

"It's an activity to take them out of the everyday thinking, the ups and downs of cancer treatment, to think about something else," Franco said.

For more information on Feel Beautiful Today, visit www.feelbeautifultoday.org.

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