

BUILDING SUPPORT SYSTEMS

HOPE IS A PART OF THE HEALING PROCESS, AND SO IS LAUGHTER AND SUPPORT. ST. MARY'S GOOD SAMARITAN HOSTS A NUMBER OF SUPPORT GROUPS FOR A VARIETY OF DIFFICULT LIFE SITUATIONS.



PENNI QUITSCH OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY STYLES JESSICA HANKE'S WIG AT THE CENTER FOR COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CARE IN MT. VERNON. JESSICA AND HER MOTHER, BOTH OF WHOM WERE FIGHTING CANCER, BENEFITED FROM FREE WIGS DURING THEIR TREATMENT, PROVIDED THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ACS.

OUR PARTNERSHIP

WITH THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY ENABLES US TO REACH OUT TO MANY PATIENTS AFFECTED BY CANCER. EIGHT TIMES PER YEAR, WE HOST "LOOK GOOD, FEEL BETTER," A PROGRAM THAT HELPS FEMALE CANCER PATIENTS LEARN BEAUTY TECHNIQUES TO HELP THEIR APPEARANCE AND SELF-IMAGE DURING TREATMENT. WE ALSO COLLABORATE WITH THE ACS TO PROVIDE ONSITE INFORMATION LIBRARIES AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES FOR CANCER PATIENTS.



IN 2007, ST. MARY'S GOOD SAMARITAN BECAME HOST TO THE ONLY "MENDED LITTLE HEARTS" SUPPORT GROUP IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION, 36,000 BABIES ARE BORN EACH YEAR WITH A HEART DEFECT— APPROXIMATELY NINE IN EVERY 1000 BIRTHS. FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PEDIATRIC HEART DISEASE FROM ALL OVER OUR REGION ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. THROUGH THE INTERACTION WITH OTHER FAMILIES, CAREGIVERS CAN FIND LAUGHTER, HEALING AND HOPE. AS THEY CONNECT WITH OTHER FAMILIES WHO HAVE SURVIVED THE SHOCK OF LEARNING A CHILD HAS A HEART DEFECT/HEART DISEASE, THEY ALSO LEARN BETTER HOW TO NAVIGATE THE MAZE OF MEDICAL DECISIONS AND PROCEDURES AND MAP OUT A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.



WE ALSO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL/ SUPPORT GROUPS FOR DIABETES, CANCER, AUTISM, AND GRIEF. EACH MONTH, FAMILIES ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR CHILDBIRTH CLASSES, NEW SIBLING CLASSES, AND BREASTFEEDING CLASSES, ALL OF WHICH ARE OFFERED AT A VARIETY OF TIMES AND LOCATIONS, AND FREE OF CHARGE.