

Top photo (left to right): Krista Robitz, director, Foundation and Katheen Orians Dawson showcase previous ARTrageous Bra submissions. Bottom photo: Mary Parrot shares the bra she designed in 2023.

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An ARTrageous Good Time for Breast Cancer Care *Annual Fundraiser Culminates in a Live Auction on Nov. 1st*

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the Southeast Georgia Health System Foundation turns heads and raises funds with its ARTrageous Bras, a fundraising event created to increase access to breast cancer care.

The ARTrageous Bras fundraiser invites the public to purchase, decorate and vote on bras transformed into art. “ARTrageous is a lighthearted way to raise awareness about breast health,” says Krista Robitz, Foundation director. “There are so many ways for our community to get involved – create a bra, become an event sponsor or vote for your favorite bras.”



Bras can be purchased from the Foundation for \$25 and must be returned to the Foundation office at 2436 Parkwood Drive in Brunswick by Friday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. The decorated bras will be displayed in the Health System’s Brunswick and Camden Campus art galleries and on the Foundation’s online gallery at wearethefoundation.org/artrageous. Individuals and businesses can vote for their favorite bras with a donation of \$1 or more by visiting the Foundation website between October 1-31. The top 10 vote-receiving bras will be entered into the live auction.

The online fundraiser culminates in a live auction and fashion show (open to the public) on November 1. Proceeds from the event go toward breast health education and outreach, mammograms and diagnostic services to uninsured, and underinsured and medically underserved individuals in our communities. According to Robitz, more than 1,000 local individuals have received breast health care due to the ARTrageous fundraisers.



Breast cancer survivor Kathleen Orians Dawson has contributed her artistic talent to the competition for many years, as part of the Women’s Club of Brunswick. “Our club decorates a bra each year. The dollars people donate by bidding on bras makes such a difference. For example, previous years’ funds went toward 3D mammography for the Health System’s WOW (Wellness on Wheels) vehicle.”

A former critical care nurse, Orians Dawson says, “My own breast cancer was diagnosed with 3D mammography, which can diagnose breast cancer early when

it's small enough to be removed with a lumpectomy versus a full mastectomy.” Orians Dawson also volunteers at Ribbon of Hope, the Health System’s health care specialty boutique. “People with cancer come into Ribbon of Hope broken and sad but frequently leave with a giant smile. It’s amazing how a wig or prosthesis fitting after a full mastectomy changes how they look at themselves.”

Mary Parrott, a fellow cancer survivor and Health System team member is another long-term ARTrageous participant. “I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017. The first bra I decorated had a ‘Cancer you Monster, Lego the Tata’s,’ theme, with pink Legos and monster hands. It reflected how I felt after fighting cancer. The next three bras were flowery and pretty; I was so grateful I won the battle! The last bra, ‘Don’t Make a Grave Mistake-Get Your Mammogram’ was a message to all women. It is important to promote awareness,” Parrott says.

Orians Dawson agrees. “The biggest takeaway from ARTrageous Bras is the sooner cancer is found, the better. If this event gets just one woman thinking she should get screened, it’s worth it. ARTrageous Bras is a fun way to spread the message.”

Parrott encourages everyone to create or vote on a bra and attend the reception. “Can you think of anything better than being part of a fun and simply ARTrageous event that can save many lives by raising awareness of a disease?”

“Nearly everyone has been affected by breast cancer in one way or another and that is reflected by our enthusiastic bra artists, as well as the generosity of our event sponsors and people who vote in our auctions,” Robitz says.

ARTrageous sponsors currently include Survivor Level: Ameris Bank; Champion Level: Larry Bryson Architect; and Fighter Level: Interstate Credit Union. A limited number of event sponsorship opportunities are still available.

For more information, call the Southeast Georgia Health System Foundation office at 912-466-3360 or email krobitz@sghs.org.

ABOUT SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM

Southeast Georgia Health System is a not-for-profit health system comprised of two acute care hospitals, two long term care facilities, two Cancer Care Centers and multiple specialty care centers, including orthopaedic and spine care, joint replacement, breast care, maternity, outpatient rehabilitation, sleep management and wound care. The Brunswick Campus Cancer Care Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and is one of the few centers in Georgia to offer CyberKnife® M6 with MLC. Additionally, the Brunswick Campus is accredited by The Joint Commission as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center and the Camden Campus is accredited as an Acute Stroke Ready Hospital. The Southeast Georgia Physician Associates medical group includes more than 160 providers working in 20 different medical specialties at more than 50 locations. The Health System is part of Coastal Community Health, a regional affiliation between Baptist Health and Southeast Georgia Health System, a highly integrated hospital network focused on significant initiatives designed to enhance the quality and value of care provided to our contiguous communities. For more information, visit sghs.org.

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