

# NEWSLETTER

## Breast Cancer Awareness

“It must be so depressing working with dying people.” This is a common response when I’m asked about my 17 years of support group work with women with advanced, metastatic (spread to other parts of the body) breast cancer. In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month I’d like to share why my service to these women is anything but depressing. I have the honor of entering what I call “sacred space” for two hours every couple of weeks with them. I don’t mean religious space; I mean a place that I recognize as very special, a place to honor the lives and stories of these women. It’s sacred because they invite me in. I never know what they will want to talk about, it might be their treatments, their sex lives, their grocery lists, the trips they are planning, or—sometimes—how to talk with their partners, loved ones, and children about their fears, hopes, or their dying... I watch them

find a place to relax and share with each other in a way they are unable to share anywhere else. I meet women like Anita, whose spunky nature and caustic humor epitomized the resilience, persistence and hope that refused to be defined by a life threatening illness. And I meet women like Joyce, whose natural grace cultivated interdependence with the other women who journeyed with her through their cancer experience, creating a sense of community unlike any other I have known. Depressing? No. I am honored to serve them, to enter their sacred space, and to learn from them how to live.

For more information on how Dr. Schapmire works with women with breast cancer, see her interview in this month’s CURE magazine <http://www.curetoday.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/article.show/id/2/>

### October Advocacy

The month of October has been designated as Awareness Month for:

- \* Domestic Violence
- \* Black History Month
- \* Breast Cancer
- \* LGBT History Month
- \* Bullying Prevention
- \* Down Syndrome
- \* Youth Justice
- \* Spina Bifida Awareness
- \* Dwarfism Awareness

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### KSSA EVENTS IN OCTOBER

October 13th - AIDS walk

October 26th - KSSA Halloween Party 7-11 Hotel Louisville