

COMMUNITY

# BEADS FOR BEAUTIES Boost Cancer Patients' Confidence

By AnnElise Makin

Debi More, from the Ridgeview neighborhood, has a heart for many charities, and last December one more destiny revealed itself to her as she started blessing cancer patients with custom made, gem beaded necklaces.

*Beads for Beauties* launched its kindness during the Christmas season at three oncology departments, at Ironwood Cancer Research Centers in Mesa and Chandler, as well as the Mayo Clinic's Hope Center. Much to their surprise, close to a hundred women in chemotherapy each received a beautiful piece of jewelry.



"You won't believe this," Debi said. "Almost all necklaces matched perfectly with the tops the ladies were wearing." Picture a lapis design sprucing up a denim top, or a black and white necklace uplifting a grey sweater. Synchronicity had worked its pizzazz into matching these pretty adornments with their ideal recipient.

"The patients were overjoyed," Debi recalled. "One woman started crying over receiving such a beautiful, unexpected gift that reminded her of the good things in life. When we left, the women were clapping and cheering and had smiles on their faces."

The idea for *Beads for Beauties* started at a yard sale, where Debi was selling her jewelry. A woman asked her, "Would you ever give such jewelry out to oncology patients?" Debi took the brazen hint, and went straight to work. She has had a passion for jewelry ever

since she took a beading class seven years ago.

"There are about 10 ladies who have always done jewelry," Debi stated. "When I told my friends about it, they wanted to help and jumped in." The next thing was making connections with local oncology departments. After two weeks, several responded.

And isn't it another kind coincidence that two of these chemotherapy patient advocates, Linda Houser, from the



American Cancer Society, and Melissa Veselovsky, live within walking distance from her? Take it as you might, Debi saw another beacon for her blessings project. Even Channel 12 has taken notice of the group, and came to photograph the busy crafters for a news segment scheduled for this month.

The Banner Mesa Director of Oncology, Patricia DeBruhl, had contemplated a similar support program. With *My Journey*, from pediatric oncology, the patients would make bracelets. Each of its 18 colors symbolizes a specific medical procedure to support each challenge.

Toward this objective, *Beads for Beauties* recently made 200 napkin rings using five different colors for a Banner Health yearly fund-raising spring event. These napkin rings can also be worn as bracelets. In tune with the spring season, the colors of the rings were yellow, green, blue, purple and pink.

The *Beads for Beauties* project must go on, but beads are expensive. Debi is now looking for sponsors, bead donations, as well as more supporters who share her vision.

Debi's employer, Responsive Data, has already made a significant contribution to *Beads for Beauties*, and the Beads Galore store has donated several



bags of beads. Recently, to support the charity cause, the Bloom Studios, of Gilbert, has started displaying Debi's necklaces for free in their wellness store.

"We all give to charities at Christmas, because that is what we do," Debi said, "but cancer does not go away at Christmas. These ladies have it all the time." That is how strongly

she feels about her mission.

"As long as I can do this, I will continue making necklaces for ladies, who could use a gift from someone they do not know," she said.

"Each necklace is a tangible piece from your heart. I know these necklaces make a lasting connection with a cancer patient." ■

If you are interested in joining *Beads for Beauties*, donating beads for necklaces, or contributing financial support, please contact Debi More at [debramore2@gmail.com](mailto:debramore2@gmail.com).

EVENT

## Take a Sentimental Journey WITH A NIGHT IN THE 40s

Submitted by Rick Senffner

The Commemorative Air Force Aviation Museum (CAF), along with presenting sponsor Hensley and Company, invite you to take a Sentimental Journey back to 1943 with *A Night in the 40s* Big Band Dance on Saturday, March 17, with doors opening at 4:30 p.m.

This glamorous event is one of the largest Big Band dances in the country. *A Night in the 40s* event features a World War II 1940s musical show, followed by a Big Band orchestra playing sounds of the era to dancing men and women dressed in period styles—all in the shadow of the vintage B-17 World War II Flying Fortress bomber Sentimental Journey.



Besides being a nostalgic journey back in time, *A Night in the 40s* benefits a worthwhile cause—a fund-raising event for the non-profit CAF Aviation Museum, located at 2017 N. Greenfield Road, at Mesa's Falcon Field, on the northeast corner of McKellips and Greenfield roads. The CAF is an organization dedicated to keeping aviation history alive for current and future generations.

"This is a great opportunity to recapture one of the most important and nostalgic times in our history," said Jack Kelly, Arizona Wing volunteer member and dance chairman. "Events like these pay special tribute to all who fought for freedom during World War II, and allow us to look back on our past."

All those participating in *A Night in the 40s* Big Band Dance are encouraged to come dressed in the style of the 40s. Danny Davis, from AM 1230 KOY, will be the master of ceremonies. A free swing dance lesson will be given by Nathaniel and Elizabeth of Savoy Hop Cats, at 4:45 p.m., to help you get ready to dance the night away!

The entertainment begins at 5:30 p.m. with The Kathy



Donald Jazz Ensemble, a 1940s musical show, with singers and a professional musical set consisting of piano, bass, drums, saxophone and clarinet, and featuring Kathy Donald. At 7:30 p.m., swing time kicks in, featuring the Sonoran Swing Big Band Orchestra, playing favorite Big Band music from the war years.

There also will be a contest for the best-dressed 1940's costume and a swing dance contest. Participants will have the opportunity to have their picture taken in front of the B-17 Sentimental Journey.

Food and refreshments will be available for purchase at the event. Tickets for *A Night in the 40s* are \$35 per person purchased in advance, and \$40 per person the day of the dance. *A Night in the 40s* tickets can be purchased online at [www.bigbanddance.com](http://www.bigbanddance.com), or at the Commemorative Air Force Arizona Wing Aviation Museum, located at 2017 N. Greenfield Road, or by calling (480) 924-1940.

The CAF Aviation Museum is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization supported only by membership dues, private donations and fund-raising events. No government funding or support is provided. All admission fees and donations are fully tax deductible, as the Commemorative Air Force Aviation Museum is approved under IRS code 501(c)3. ■

For further information, call (480) 924-1940, or visit the *A Night in the 40s* Web site at [www.bigbanddance.com](http://www.bigbanddance.com). For additional information on the Commemorative Air Force Aviation Museum, visit the Web site at [www.azcaf.org](http://www.azcaf.org).

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