



Cancer Resource Centre

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CARE IS IN THE BAG AT THE CANCER RESOURCE CENTRE

MUNSTER – With each cancer diagnosis, a journey begins. Friends of the Cancer Resource Centre recently packed bags with items cancer patients can use for that journey. The Cancer Resource Centre in Munster is a place where individuals fighting cancer can go after a diagnosis and find free services that help educate, support and provide a reprieve.

Program facilitator Nancy Feldman understands the need for patients to have extra guidance and reassurance after a diagnosis.

“We’re helping those going through chemotherapy and radiation better prepare for the experience,” Feldman said.

With an John W. Anderson Foundation grant, we’ve purchased care bags and collected items from community donors that can promote a more positive, comfortable treatment experience – a calendar to track appointments; lip balm, notebook, pocket tissues or playing cards – all the little things that can add up to make a big difference, she said.

During the past 10 years, the Anderson Foundation has contributed more than \$100,000 toward cancer care in our communities.

The first 50 bright green totes with comfort items were put together by the Friends of the Cancer Resource Centre. Fifty more bags were completed by Nancy Feldman with the help of Nancy, Elly, Rachel Gross and Nikki Verdeyen. The Friends group is a volunteer auxiliary designed to enhance and promote the good works of the Centre. The auxiliary was formed in early June of 2006 and has grown to more than 50 members.

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The Resource Centre is a program of the Community Cancer Research Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of cancer care available in Northwest Indiana and the South Chicago Suburbs. Since first opening its doors in 2003, The Cancer Resource Centre has offered all of its services free of charge to all who enter: including those receiving care from medical treatment facilities other than the hospitals of Community Healthcare System. The Centre is funded from donations and grants, in-kind donations and volunteer support.

Individuals may check out books, view videotapes and other educational material within the library or conduct internet searches to obtain research concerning diagnosis, treatment and general information. Groups gather to share experiences in social and professionally-led groups for support. Classes and programs are offered to help individuals connect in their experiences and to promote emotional well-being.

The Cancer Resource Centre is located at 926 Ridge Road in Munster. For more information on the mind-body-spirit programs and a complete listing of upcoming classes and events, visit online at www.cancerresourcecentre.com or to contribute to the project, please call 219-836-3349.



Volunteer Loretta Sullivan (right), member of the Friends of the Cancer Resource Centre group, helps Mary Jo Holly sort through items for the care bags that will be used by cancer patients during their healthcare journey.