

# Home of Hope Presents



This is Me!

This is  
HOPE!

A Collaboration  
of  
Artist & Patient



# From the Director

Welcome to This is Me! This Is HOPE!

A cancer diagnosis is a life-altering event. Our mission at Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center is to be there for the patient as they navigate his/her “journey”.

Each client is a special person with a unique story. I am grateful to the artists and Home of Hope clients that came together to put this amazing exhibit together.

I was unsure the concept I had imagined could be fulfilled! As you will see those involved surpassed all my expectations! A big thank you to all the artists involved!

I believe this has been a therapeutic process for both the artist and patient. The exhibit started at The Next Picture Show in Dixon and will travel throughout the Sauk Valley area. The traveling displays will bring awareness to our community of the cancer journey as well as Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center.

I hope you enjoy the show. Please share with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Joan Padilla

Executive Director

# She Wears Armor!

Artist: Heather Shore

Heather Shore specializes in mixed media collage, creates a variety of wearable and usable art objects and is even available for commissioned murals. She teaches Art at Rock Falls' Schools. See more at [heathershoredesigns.weebly.com](http://heathershoredesigns.weebly.com)

Client: Tara

Tara is a mother, daughter, and friend who happens to be battling cancer. Tara has continued to live her life and do all the things a mother is supposed to do all while carrying this burden. Although she has the help of her friends and family there is much she still carries alone.



## Forever!

Artist: Barb Lundeen

I am an artist and I will be finishing a course of radiation treatments in a couple of weeks. I have to say I do not fear it as I did prior to my first diagnosis and it has made me see how important early detection is a positive outcome.

Client: Darla

Darla's journey started in a tropical paradise: the journey and uncertainty knitted into our lives, the sparkles are the scattered wonders and joys that make our lives unique.

# No One has ever died of embarrassment!

Artist: Rock River Valley Painters' Guild

The Rock River Valley Painter's Guild exists to support, promote, educate and present art throughout the region through the combined effort and resources of all the members. It is based on the concept of the Japanese proverb 'None of us are as smart as all of us.'

Client: Barb

The mannequin represents my experience. The cancer colors on my mannequin are yellow for bladder, peach for uterine, teal for gynecological cancers and all the other colors of the rainbow for every other affliction. We all know about pink for breast cancer awareness as the men and women fly their battle color proudly.



## Woven in Time / Woven in Love

Artist: Linda Von Holten

Linda Von Holten is a full-time artist, establishing Artwork By LVH in 2013. LVH currently works primarily in acrylics, traversing a range of surfaces, subjects, and styles; her artistic canon enriched by photography and mixed media. Her next goal is to live and work as a creative artist in London, UK.

Client: Jamie

Jamie and I have known each other since high school. Jamie shared her recent health developments, including the beginnings of her treatments. I chatted with Jamie, met her husband and two daughters, and learned about many more people, places, histories, and experiences that have helped to shape the woman that she is. I am honored to create a visual portrayal of the honest, genuine, thoughtful and caring person who is Jamie.

# Rising Out of the Depths


## Artist: Stacey Barber

Stacy Jo Barber is an artist, art therapist, and licensed clinical professional counselor. She provides clinical counseling and art therapy services at her private practice, Roots & Wings, in downtown Dixon, Illinois. Her passion is utilizing art and creativity to weave together the intricacies of the human experience, expressing the unique story and emotionality that accompanies each of us along our life's path.

## Client: Deb

Deb's story is one reminiscent of the seasons. Out of the death and decay wrought by a stage 4 breast cancer diagnosis, slowly budded and sprung forth a new season of personal growth, wisdom, and an infinite pool of calm.

Albert Camus said, "In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." This piece is about rising out of the depths of a terrifying and devastating cancer diagnosis and discovering a new season of gratitude, faith, inner peace and self-love.



## Rough Skies

## Artist: Amy Fenwick

Amy graduated from Western Illinois University with a degree in Studio Art. She has taught art to children and adults for the past 10 years.

## Client: Lorna


Lorna was diagnosed in 2012 with stage 3c breast cancer. She faced radiation, chemo, and a double mastectomy with courage and positivity. During her treatments she had daycare kiddos to care for and her husband Todd by her side. Her daycare kids were very curious and Lorna was always willing to share her journey with them, even bringing in surgical caps to wear just like hers when she lost her hair. During this battle Lorna's husband Todd was her rock and when things got rough they would play Jason Mraz "I won't give up" to help them through

# I'm Still Me

Artist: Abby Castillo -SVCC Digital Media Arts

Client: Anonymous

The black paint over the world represents that cancer can affect anyone, regardless of who they are. The heart represents overcoming cancer while still being the same person as before diagnosis.



# Wolf of Dreams

Artist: Colton Reuter & Leslie Sonnenberg-DMA

Client: Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center

Some diagnosed with cancer want to tackle the disease on their own, much like a lone wolf. However, the strength of the wolf comes from the pack. The wolves take care of each other! Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center helps the patient connect with his pack and helps the pack find ways to be there for the patient!

# Melodic Journey

## Artist: Whitney Hey

Whitni Hey is a Dixon resident who has always embraced the arts. She loves performing in theatre, singing, dancing and writing. Whitney loves life and feels an attitude of appreciation is the key to happiness. She finds joy in her connection to this incredible Earth and sees beauty in all of nature's bounty.

## Client: Lorri

There is illumination that shines through the darkness of this difficult struggle. I chose to use decoupage as the main background medium because it portrays the textures and dimensions of an individual's layers. I believe we are all a series of strata built upon by our experience, all becoming multi-faceted with the passage of time. The iridescent accents casting the light of the rainbow symbolize optimistic expectation and the promise of another day.



## The Way to Happiness

Artist: Devyn Heyman- Digital Media Arts

Client: Anonymous

Being diagnosed can sometimes feel like you are trapped in a strange environment, like drowning in water. The fish on the right appears sick but on the left a brighter, healthy fish. Finding a way to achieve inner harmony and peace, helps the patient fight cancer.

# Hope

Artist: Lauren Strauss- DMA

Client: Unknown

No matter the news, there is always someone or something to get you through the tough times.



## Flourishing Fighter

Artist: Kassie Murray- DMA

Client: Cece

The armor represents strength throughout her journey and fight with breast cancer. A warrior, she never appeared to be struggling throughout her fight. The floral side represents Cece's bright personality and love for life, which continues to blossom. The cross her faith in God and the support and comfort He provided.



## With Him

Artist: Kaitlyn Mateika- DMA

Client: Cece

Cece's personal story, the important events and meanings of her cancer journey.



**This is Me! This is Hope!**

## **Schedule**

This project will travel throughout the Sauk Valley. Please share with friends and family.

March 10-23 Next Picture Show, Dixon

March 25-April 7 KSB Hospital, Dixon

April 9-20 Northern IL Cancer Treatment, Dixon

April 23-May 4 Sauk Valley Community College

May 5-19 Loft Gallery, Morrison

May 20-June 1 CGH Medical, Sterling

June 2 -July Woodlawn Arts, Sterling

**Many thanks to the artists, patients, venues, Mr.**

**Dennis Mennie -WACC Digital Media Arts  
instructor & Kaitlyn Blum, UOI Boutique for  
mannequin donations!**

Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center is a local non-profit that is not associated with, nor does it receive funding from, the American Cancer Society(ACS) or any other national cancer organization. Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center operates exclusively on private foundations, grants, and the generous donations of our local communities.

# Home of Hope Board of Directors

Cindy Zander - Board President (CGH)

Janet Lynch- Board VP

Linda Clemen- Board Secretary (KSB)

Matt Keegan- Board treasurer (WMP&J)

Steve Meiners (Crest Foods)

Amy Young (Community State Bank)

Steve Nunez( Sauk Valley Community College)

Deb Etheridge (Northern II Cancer Treatment Center)

Dr. Ed Miles (Northern II Cancer Treatment Center)

Diana Merdian (Lee County Health Dept)

Steve Brewer (Sterling Federal Bank)

## Home of Hope Staff

Joan Padilla- Executive Director

Matt Skaggs- Client Services

Daria Bennett- Admin Assistant

La Shaunte Mitchell -Intern

1637 Plock Dr

Dixon, IL

815.288.4673

[homeofhopeonline.org](http://homeofhopeonline.org)