
New women's woodturning group donates 20 wig stands to Dignity Health YRMC Breast Care Center

By **NANCI HUTSON**
The Daily Courier

A group of local women woodcrafters designed and hand-painted 20 wig stands they donated to the Dignity Health Yavapai Regional Medical Center Baskin Breast Care Center on Friday, Feb. 28.

This gift from members of the Prescott Area Woodturning Club's Women in Turning group (WIT) comes with great compassion for individuals, primarily women, undergoing cancer treatment as several involved in this particular artistic venture are breast cancer survivors, according to the club newsletter editor Kathy Allen.

On behalf of the WIT group, Allen and fellow club leaders arranged the donation to the

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The ornate handcrafted wooden wig stands donated to Dignity Health YRMC Baskin Breast Cancer Center by the Women in Turning group. (Dignity Health YRMC/Matt Santos/Courtesy)

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center located at the hospital's east campus in Prescott Valley through the hospital's Manager of Philanthropy Kathleen Hanni, a three-year breast cancer survivor.

In a news release, Hanni described this donation, that complements the YRMC Foundation's donation of wigs, mammograms and chemotherapy to "underserved" patients undergoing treatment through the center. She explained that wigs need to be properly mounted on wig stands to maintain their wearable shape.

These stands, however, are not simply practical, but are true works of art, Hanni enthused. Some are painted with butterflies, flowers and other uplifting patterns and bright colors. If sold at a craft show, Hanni suggested, these could easily sell for \$150 to \$200 each.

Excited about this new partnership with the WIT group, Hanni described this venture as a "beautiful contribution" to a community of patients who most need such an embrace given that many are undergoing treatments that will cause them to lose their hair. She said she appreciates so much that these women's criteria for these stands was that they be gifts to patients at time when they most need



Prescott Area Woodturning Club and members of its new Women In Turning group that handcrafted 20 wig stands for donation to the Dignity Health Yavapai Regional Baskin Breast Care Center. The YRMC Foundation orchestrated the donation to underserved women who have lost their hair as part of their treatment. Left to right: Gary Frank Heidi DeFazio, Kathy Allen, Kate Hanni, Susan Murphy, Savannah Murphy and Chuck Brown. Dignity Health YRMC/Matt Santos/Courtesy)

encouragement and support of their community.

As part of the 100-member PAW club, a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners, Allen said in a news release that this is the first community project for the new WIT group, one also sanctioned through the national organization. The main club crafts bowls, vases and other artistic wooden pieces, and regularly seeks ways to offer their talents to those in need. The national organization benefits children with cancer with their "Beads of Courage" campaign, project, Allen said in the release.

Since this project was initiated in the summer, the WIT is recruiting other club members with \$5 kits to make more stands. Allen said they have already sold 66 kits. Allen expects to soon be able to make another donation to the foundation of an additional 60 stands.

This initiative was started by national WIT groups in 2023. Some 1,900 wig stands have been donated across the nation, she noted.

"This project is so rewarding because it gives the opportunity to practice

all of our woodturning skills while making something that we could donate to help support someone who has lost their hair. As we turn it and put it together, we think of the person who may receive it and put our caring wishes toward their healing through use of the wig stand.

Beyond the efforts of the WIT members, Allen also offered a sincere thanks to Yavapai College Woodturning instructor Dean Humphrey for allowing the members to use the woodturning lab on July 31 and August 1 for this project.

"The college was quick to lend their support," Allen said.

With the success of this venture, WIT plans to mentor other woodturners to make wig stands to continue to support "this worthy cause," she noted.

On a personal note, Hanni said she is "passionate about" supporting and projects that encourage and enable those diagnosed with breast cancer to thrive during this challenging interval in their lives.

The theme for this endeavor is: "Community Teamwork makes for Dreamwork," Hanni concluded.

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