

# Neighbors

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## Bringing smiles to victims of cancer



### HELPING THE CAUSE:

Hairroots owner Joanne Washington displays two of her wig selections available to chemotherapy patients after cancer surgery. Washington is opening her Euclid Street salon on Saturday for the Susan Komen Foundation free mammogram screenings.

**BARBARA GIASONE/**  
Fullerton  
News Tribune

**C**ancer has circled Joanne Washington's life too many times to ignore the emotional pain.

Her husband, William, was diagnosed with prostate cancer at age 59. A friend ultimately lost a battle with breast cancer in her late 20s. And, though Washington was spared permanent trauma after finding a benign lump, the fear will never fade.

The Fullerton beautician, who owns Hairroots salon at 209 N. Euclid St., recently approached the Susan G. Komen Foundation to offer her services to cancer victims. Washington fits wigs on women who lose their hair after chemotherapy.

The Komen folks teamed Washington — a Fullerton resident for 16 years — with the Orange County YWCA EncorePlus breast health care program.

On Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hairroots will bounce to the beat of a steel drum band during a free "Celebration of Life."

More importantly, free mammograms, clinical breast exams and breast self-exam instructions will be given to qualifying women. Other participants will be charged a low fee.

Sponsors also include Fullerton Albertson's and Home Depot, Samsung/Sprint PCS and private donations.

Appointments are available by calling (714)935-9720.

Washington, the mother of two, has also volunteered to serve on the EncorePlus advisory board and participate in the Cancer Society's "Feel Good, Feel Better Service."

"I'll never forget my friend who came into the salon wearing a scarf to hide her bald head," Washington said. "She looked in the mirror and cried when I pulled the scarf off.

"Then I fitted her with a wig, spun her around and positioned her back in front of the mirror," Washington added. "I wish you could have seen that smile."