

Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Adversity....Courage.....Love

April 18, 2011



Sharing love through support

Lenora Johnson, Founder,
Editor, Exec. Director
P.O. Box 36
Jacksonville, AL 36265
www.steelmagnoliasinc.org
Lenora@steelmagnoliasinc.org

Marti Warren, President
Keither Zeimet, Vice President
Margaret Taylor, Secretary
Nancy Burnell, Treasurer
Office (256) 231-8827

Jim Wilson, RMC Chaplain
(256) 235-5146

Steel Magnolias Chaplain Services:
Marti Rogers & Sherry Grinstead (256) 231-8827

Gladys Denizard, Pinks Boutique
(256) 435-4060

**I persist,
To do all the things I have
on my list.
Be the best I can be and
keep trucking on
And I'll be surprised at the
things I get done.
Cancer can't run my life**

April showers!
**Showers of blessings
and numerous opportunities
to serve and be
blest!**

Thank you, Ms. Dixie Reynolds for your poem that speaks to our hearts as we face the challenges of each day.

Thirst

Dixie Reynolds, 2011

The hot summer sun
blazes down on the
dry barren earth.
One little flower
fights to survive the
nature of the land.
Its leaves drooping
from lack of moisture,
will surely wither and die.
A cloud floats over
the vast sky and beholds
the little plant and releases
refreshing rain.
Thirsty roots soak up
life giving moisture.
Soon its leaves are
standing tall and her
blossoms are more
vivid than ever. How

different are we from
this small plant,
fighting to survive?
We too have a life
saving water from the
Living Water of God.
Drink and thirst no
more!

*Even youths grow tired
and weary, and young
men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in
the Lord will renew their
strength, they will soar
on wings like eagles; they
will run and not grow
weary, they will walk and
not be faint.*

Isaiah 40: 30-31

Dixie Reynolds provides Avon products to furnish cosmetic bags, lovingly made for breast cancer patients, by Gerri Smith. Gerri also writes beautiful poetry. Her recent poetry documents her battle with ovarian cancer. Several Steel Magnolias members are dealing with health issues, some with recurrence of cancer, some with other diseases. When Gerri read her poem to me, I asked permission to share her thoughts in the April

newsletter. Gerri said,
"Yes! I just want to help
cancer patients."

I Can, Cancer Can't
Gerri Smith 4-03-11
**Though I'm facing so
many challenges in
life**

**And finding it hard
to be a wife**

**And I find that my
energy is sometimes
running low**

**And my thoughts and
recollections are
sometimes slow,
I still try looking up,
being positive and
moving on**

**To try to do the things
I can get done.**

**I know this isn't the
best of me, but it is
the best I can be.**

**Life gets tough and
you have to be tough
too**

**Or life's busy strides
and problems will get
the best of you.**

**Hang in there, I tell
myself and go on my
way.**

**Tomorrow will be
better and I'll have a
better day....**

**Hang on to your
dreams, I say again as**

Though it slows me down;
It can't break my will to fight and carry on...
There are things we can control, that we do.
It takes faith, commitment, desire and strong will too...
I'm a fighter and as long as I can fight, I win.
I'll keep getting up, put one foot in front of the other and fight again.
Life is precious, a gift from God above.
Life is filled with courage, devotion, faith, hope and love.
I know God won't give you more than you can bear
And when I feel overwhelmed, I go to him, for help in prayer.

Lord Lift Me Up

Gerri Smith March 14, 2011

Lord, lift me up from where I am.
Give me strength so I can stand.
Please hold my hand so I can cope;
Lift me up and give me hope

Lord let me see that I can be strong
And hope and faith will carry me on.
Let me know that I can bear
All in front of me, with you there.

Lord keep me strong in all I do
And let me always turn to you.
Let me love life and do my best;
Let me put my mind to rest.

I depend, God, a lot on you
And ask for help real often too.
I want to lean on your loving care
An God, I know you are always there.

Lord lift me up, I ask again
And help me to lift others too.
With all the love you give to me,
Let me thank and give praise to you.

**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me
Philippians 4: 13**



UPDATE

Each of us faces unpleasant hurdles on a regular basis. That is LIFE! Coach Bear Bryant said to his team, "Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man, but sooner or later the man who wins is the fellow who thinks he can."

Please share your triumphant story. We need encouragement!

April 8, 2011: Hi, another goal met...mowing the lawn. He gets to the mower in the wheel chair, gets up with the walker, climbs on and off he goes! Love, Gudrun

Go Bill! You are TRUE GRIT! An inspiration to all of us! Praise God!

UPDATE

In late March, I received a phone call from Ted Nail. He was bursting with excitement! He said, "Ms. Lenora, I have been accepted at Louisiana State University master's program, with a full scholarship, if I maintain a B average." I said, "Ted, you will maintain a B average!" He thanked me again for honoring him and went on to say, "Ms. Dixie's song, 'I'm Gonna Take That Mountain,' really spoke to my spirit! I pictured all the challenges facing me, becoming level and I just walked over them!"

Ted Emailed a thank you note to Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel:

Thank you all,

I would like to take the time to thank all of you at Steel Magnolias for the wonderful evening on March 22, 2011. I was so very surprised, not only to have been asked back, but to have my favorite fruit, (PIZZA) but then to have been honored by your group with a check of \$450.00. I am so blessed to meet so many outstanding individuals as all of you. You are a great group, and a lot of fun to be around.

I will always remember you and your strong women and men of faith, and great strength which truly defines all of you with Steel Magnolias. Some people collect coins, stamps, cars, or vacation pictures. Still others collect stocks, bonds, fine wines, and books, but I am proud to say that I collect the memories of people and the joy they give me.

If I have done anything for your group or have added anything, I pray it is love, joy, laughter, and encouragement to their lives. We must give hope while we can, and as long as I have breath in me, this is what I want to accomplish, and this is the legacy that I want to leave for those coming after me.

Lenora, If there is anything I can do for your group, please let me know, and I will be proud to hearken to the call, if I possibly can. Like I said before, thank you for all you have done for me, and I pray many blessings upon you and your spectacular group. I love you all with all my heart and life.

Ted "The Blind Rapper" Nail

Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 2011, Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel met in the Cancer Resource Center at 5:00 p.m., for a special meeting, honoring Ted Nail. Sherry Grinstead gave thanks for our food and we enjoyed a pizza supper. Ted, and his friends, Dr. Ken and Joyce Nix, from Word of Life International Church, were first in line so that Ted could enjoy his "Favorite Fruit" before entertaining the group.

Following dinner, Dixie Reynolds sang the beautiful and inspirational song, "He Touched Me," with backup by the group on the chorus, "He touched me, He touched me, and made me whole." Sherry Grinstead read the prayer list and asked for God's touch on the list and everyone at the meeting.

Ted Nail, with the assistance of Ken Nix, took the floor and delighted everyone with memories of funny family stories. He also shared an event that happened to him: Ted and his young wife were in church for a special singing. At this time, Ted could see. They attended a church where the seating areas narrowed as you walked to the front of the sanctuary. As a rule, Ted and his wife sat in the back of the church, but because of the special singers, they chose to sit up front. Before the service ended, Ted got up to check on their baby girl who was in the nursery. When he stood up and turned to walk down the aisle, his feet had gotten caught, one at the base of the pew he sat on and one at the base of the pew behind him. As he took a step, he fell forward into the lap of a very large sister in the Lord! Ted said, "I was in her face, so close, I could have kissed her!" She took both hands and shoved him so hard that his feet became free. Ted said, as I slinked out of the sanctuary, I looked back to see my wife in the floor, LAUGHING! I did not go back inside!" Outside, my wife asked, "What did you say to that woman?!" Ted said, "Baby, you want to come outside?....actually, in my highest pitch, I said, HELP." Ted, who is known in his church as "The Blind Rapper," then led us all in a rap session.

Lenora read a tribute to Ted, declared him a "Man of Steel and presented him with a gift of \$450, contributed by Chaplain Wilson, Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel. Dixie continued the tribute by singing "I'm Gonna Take That Mountain!"

President Marti Warren drew for door prizes.....Men of Steel Director, Jimmy Taylor, encouraged everyone to work hard for door prizes and sponsorships for the Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament.



Keither helped with a sign-up sheet for the April 23rd bake and jewelry sale. Lenora asked everyone to distribute fliers advertising the bake and jewelry sale. Meeting was adjourned
Respectfully submitted by Margaret Taylor, Secretary

Financial Report

March		Balance Brought Forward	\$6,817.99
03 (+)	567.20	Money contributed by Chaplain Wilson, Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel for Ted Nail gift. (373) Contributions to Steel Magnolias (194.20)	7,385.19
07 (-)	32.50	Kyuka Waters: Anniston Oncology & Outpatient Chemo.	7,352.69
07 (-)	100.00	Lenora Johnson: Monthly Expense	7,252.69
10 (-)	30.00	JSU Social Work Program (Day Exhibit)	7,222.69
10 (-)	44.00	Postmaster: 100 stamps for office	7,178.69
10 (-)	204.82	Margaret Taylor: Reimburse (Sam's Club-Snacks for chemo patients)	6,973.87
22 (-)	44.00	Postmaster: 100 stamps for office	6,929.87
22 (-)	450.00	Graduation Gift —Ted Nail from Designated Contributions	6,479.87

Community Outreach

JSU 30th Annual Social Work Conference

Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc., attended the 30th Annual Social Work conference at Houston Cole Library on April 1, 2011.

Steel Magnolias presented an exhibit to raise Breast Cancer awareness, education and encouragement during the treatment and recovery process. A grassroots nonprofit organization operates entirely on private donations and fundraisers to support our clients. Call (256) 231-8827 or E-mail <steelmagnoliasinc.org> for more information. Submitted by Publicity Chair, Sheila Gail Gaddy



Above: Sheila Gail Gaddy, Ted Nail, Lenora Johnson, Prentiss Johnson

American Car Mart Grand Opening On April 2, 2011

Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group were present for the American Car Mart grand opening, 1200 South Quintard, on April 2nd. Available to talk about services provided and encourage customer participation in the Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament, May 7, 2011, at Pine Hill Country Club.

Steve Miller, General Manager, ordered a sunny day for the grand opening. Children's activities were available along with great food.

Customers were making appropriate car selections, listening to Randi Jo Owens, local "The Big 95" country music along with Birmingham

station managers, Laurence Salvary and Tasha Semione, "Hot 107.7 smooth R & B sounds.

Steel magnolias operates entirely on donations and fundraisers to support our clients.

For more info... (256) 231-8827

Submitted by Publicity Chair, Sheila Gaddy



Jimmy Taylor, Dr. Dave Roberts, Cassie Harris, Margaret Taylor, Linda Barton Pictured left: American Car Mart, General Manager, Steve Miller





Marti Warren

**Sheila Gaddy, Steve Thomas,
Instr. NEA Police Academy**

C.A.R.E.S.

April 11, 2011, Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, participated in the C.A.R.E.S. Fair at McClellan Center of Gadsden State Community College. Sheila Gaddy and Marti Warren were available to answer any questions and to pass out Steel Magnolias newsletters and brochures.

This was the first CARES Fair at McClellan Center and was primarily for the benefit of teachers and students. It was a beautiful sunny day to enjoy tasty treats and participate in the planned activities and be introduced to people from other community agencies. Submitted by Sheila Gaddy, Publicity Chair

Healthy Horizons Annual Health Extravaganza....*Strive To Be Alive* ***Steel Magnolias Speech—Condensed***

A few days after Teresa Tims asked if I would speak at the April 15, Health and Wellness Extravaganza, I couldn't help thinking about the journey of the past ten years. First, I'd like to tell you that NO ONE would ever just wake up one morning and decide to work 20+ hours a week as a volunteer, for 10 years, with no expectation of a pay day, except the knowledge that you would make a difference in MANY lives of breast cancer patients and their families —without first being forced into battling cancer oneself.

After a year of battling testicular cancer, Lance Armstrong asked, "How do you slip back into the ordinary world?" The answer is, YOU CAN'T, not as the same person.

My journey with breast cancer started in late summer 1999. I was having the time of my life, landscaping our Neely Henry Lake property. Landscaping was my passion and I had never felt better or been happier. In September of '99, I went for my mammogram. My OB-GYN called to tell me there was a problem with my mammogram and I should see a surgeon right away. An appointment had been made with Dr. Wesley Smith.

Dr. Smith told me there was branching from what had previously been diagnosed as fibrocystic lumps. My heart almost stopped! My last mammogram had been 3 years earlier. A biopsy revealed a Triple Negative, Poorly Differentiated cancerous tumor.

It took me two years to reclaim my life—I made mistakes in deciding the best course of action during those two years. I cried out to God, "There really should be something for women going through what I'm going through!" Encounter after encounter happened that directed me to become a voice for breast cancer patients. The last being when Liz Edwards placed Chaplain Jim Wilson's phone number in my hand and said, Call him!"

While it is true that I am the Founder of Steel Magnolias, we have grown into an Army. We are Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel who stand shoulder to shoulder and work to provide Services, Hope and Comfort to cancer patients, Education for those not yet diagnosed and Advocacy for those who need an advocate.

A surgeon who spoke to our group said, "I think breast cancer is the cruelest of cancers because it changes the form of the body." Some breast cancer patients lose their breasts, their hair and even their fingernails, in their battle to survive. These three characteristics of being a woman, is what we call beauty. That makes breast cancer a battle, physically, mentally, and psychologically.

My passion is no longer landscaping, it is the woman, caught like a deer in the headlights, not knowing which way to turn, while facing an unsure future. My greatest joy is seeing her leave her breast cancer imposed cocoon and burst forth



Margaret

Lenora

Marti R.

as a butterfly, seeing herself as a more beautiful, more complete and more compassionate woman.

Submitted by Lenora Johnson, Founder and Executive Director of Steel Magnolias

Correspondence

April 12, 2011—Dear Lenora and Steel Magnolias,

Thank you for the monthly newsletter & everything you do for breast cancer. Enclosed is some old costume jewelry I had on hand or purchased from a yard sale especially for Marti. I hope the bake & jewelry show goes well. I know all the money raised goes for education & to help alleviate the pain & suffering incurred with breast cancer. I am now 8 years out from cancer & thank God everyday.

The Hokes Bluff Lion's Club has taken over the Crusin' For the Cure, as their project. Therefore, my husband & I just act in a consulting role. The Susan G. Komen Foundation in Birmingham wasn't so interested in this project so after 5 years and raising over \$72,000, we passed the torch. The Lion's Club still gives several thousand dollars to the Komen Foundation. "The Race For The Cure" is grounded very well now, so I didn't feel too bad to move on.

The grass roots effort of Steel Magnolias is dear to my heart. While I can't be there physically, I will support the group as I can financially & prayerfully. Enclosed is a check for \$200.00

Love, Wanda Posey.....Hokes Bluff, AL

The Miracle Apple Tree

"There is an apple tree in the back corner of my yard. It is a miracle tree. You would have to see it to believe the tree is still alive, let alone put on apples every year. The entire front of the tree died and carpenter ants hollowed out the trunk most of the way from the ground to the smaller limbs. It's lifeblood comes from only the back half with no trunk to hold it up. The hedge protecting it from the winds allows it to remain standing. I don't pick the apples; I let the birds and other critters eat them."



Just as the crepe myrtles in Gerald's backyard strengthens the old apple tree, allowing it to continue, season after season, to accomplish the purpose for which it was created, Steel Magnolias are a hedge that God uses to strengthen cancer survivors.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10



Tuesday Bear Hugger, Gerri Smith, who is battling ovarian cancer, contributed her collection of Teddy Bears to Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. Gerri requested that funds be used to provide comfort, hope and services to cancer patients.

Teddy's Beginning: In 1902, President Teddy Roosevelt, an avid outdoorsman was visiting in Mississippi. During the visit, several members of the presidential party captured a bear cub and tied it to a tree. President Roosevelt ordered the bear set free. A New York store owner, after hearing of the noble act, asked the president for permission to name toy bears, "TEDDY." Permission was given and from that day on, all toy bears are called TEDDY BEARS.

**Centennial Teddy
1902-2002**

Collectable Teddy by GUND will be awarded on July 26, 2011, at the New Beginnings Banquet. Raffle Tickets are \$1.00. Buy tickets from a Steel Magnolia or call Steel Magnolias Office (256) 231-8827

Joggin' Inside

Out of Gas

Sister Mary Ann, who worked for a home health agency, was out making her rounds, visiting homebound patients when she ran out of gas. As luck would have it, a Texaco Gasoline station was just a block away. She walked to the station to borrow a gas can and buy some gas. The attendant told her that the only gas can had been loaned out, but she could wait until it was returned. Since Sister Mary Ann was on the way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car. She looked for something in her car that she could fill with gas and spotted the bedpan she was taking to the patient. Always resourceful, Sister Mary Ann carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with gasoline and carried the full bedpan back to her car. As she was pouring the gas into her tank, two Lutherans watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said, "If it starts, I'm turning Catholic!" Courtesy of Pokey....Anniston, AL

Flower Show

Two little old ladies, Dorace & Jackie were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress. The short one, Jackie leaned over and said, "Life is so boring! We never have any fun anymore. For \$10.00 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid flower show! "You're on" said Dorace, holding up a \$10.00 note. So Jackie slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes and completely naked, streaked (as fast as an old lady can) through the front door of the flower show. Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling. Finally, the smiling Jackie came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering, clapping crowd. "What happened?" asked her waiting friend. "I won \$1000 as 1st prize for 'Best Dried Arrangement.....!'" Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

Tough Year

It was a tough year, but I made it!!! But not everyone is as lucky as I am.... The economy is soooo bad that I got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.....I ordered a burger at McDonald's and the kid behind the counter asked, "Can you afford fries with that?".....CEO's are now playing miniature golf.....If the bank returns your check marked "Insufficient Funds," you have to call them and ask if they mean you or them.....Hot Wheels and Matchbox stocks are trading higher than GM.....McDonald's is selling the 1/4 'ouncer!'.....Parents in Beverly Hills and Malibu are firing their nannies and learning their children's names.....A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.....Dick Cheney took his stockbroker hunting.....Motel Six won't leave the light on anymore.....BP Oil laid off 25 congressmen.....Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

\$100

A little boy wanted \$100.00 very badly and prayed for weeks, but nothing happened. Then he decided to write God a letter requesting \$100.00. When the postal Authorities received the letter to God, USA, they decided to send it to the President. The President was so amused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a \$5.00 bill. The President thought this would appear to be a lot of money to a little boy. The little boy was delighted with the \$5.00 bill and sat down to write a thank-you note to God, which read: "Dear God; Thank you very much for sending the money. However, I noticed you sent it through Washington D.C., and those THUGS deducted \$95 in taxes!!!!!!!" Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

The Hypnotist

It was entertainment night at the Senior Center. Claude, the hypnotist exclaimed, "I'm here to put you into a trance; I intend to hypnotize each and every member of the audience. The excitement was almost electric as Claude withdrew a beautiful antique pocket watch from his coat. "I want you each to keep your eye on this antique watch. It's a very special watch. It's been in my family for six generations." He began to swing the watch gently back and forth while quietly chanting "watch the watch, watch the watch..." The crowd became mesmerized as the watch swayed back and forth, light gleaming off its polished surface. Hundreds of pairs of eyes followed the swaying watch, until suddenly, it slipped from the hypnotist's fingers and fell to the floor, breaking into a hundred pieces. "CRAP!!" said the hypnotist. It took three days to clean up the Senior Center. Claude was never invited back to entertain. Courtesy of Pokey.....Anniston, AL

Digging

A neighbor observed little Timmy working tirelessly digging a rather large hole. Walking over, he said to Timmy, "What's going on with the hole Timmy" "My goldfish died and I'm digging a hole to bury him," Timmy replied. "Well," said the neighbor, "That's a big hole for a goldfish, why are you digging it so big?" "Because," replied young Timmy, "He's in your stupid cat!!" Courtesy of Dixie.....Eastaboga, AL

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE!

STEEL
MAGNOLIAS

providing
Service/Support

Annual
Bake
&
Jewelry
Sale

Marti has a
Great selection of
Jewelry for Easter
Or that special gift
for Mother's Day

Don't miss
Ina's Fried Apple Pies
Gloria's French
Donuts
Variety of cakes from
Steel Magnolias

Or
Special Goodies
From the
Ladies of Leather-
wood Baptist Ch.

QUINTARD

MALL

Near

Bath & Body Works

9 am—5 pm

lenora@steelmagnoliasinc.org
(256) 231-8827

Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament
Benefiting Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Pine Hill Country Club
Anniston, Alabama

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011

Format: 4 Person Scramble

Cost: \$50/player or \$200/team

Start Time: 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

Lunch will be provided and served for all players at 11:30 a.m.

To play in the tournament, please fill out the following form and mail it with your team's check in the amount of \$200. If you are registering as an individual send in the form with your name and a check for \$50.

Checks should be made payable to Steel Magnolias, Inc.

Mail to: Jimmy Taylor Phone (256) 463-7620
1015 County Road 13
Heflin, Al. 36264

Lea Fite Memorial Golf Tournament
May 7, 2011

Player 1 Name _____

Player 2 Name _____

Player 3 Name _____

Player 4 Name _____

Opportunity at time of registration to purchase a separate package that includes: 2 mulligans, a throw and a skirt @ \$15. Cost after registration \$20.

PRIZES based on full field:

1st Flight

1st place team: \$600.

2nd Place team: \$400.

2nd Flight

1st Place team : \$200.

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, April 26: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel Meeting, 5:00 pm, Suite 406 of RMC Physicians Center Group interaction meeting. RMC providing Potato Bar. Please bring favorite salad, fruit or light dessert