

'Wig Lady' helps with cancer victims

By Joyce Williams
Special to The Chronicle

The Wig Lady. Now that's a name you don't forget. I first met LeeAnn Callahan when I was the speaker for a women's retreat. She was the special feature. All of us were amazed at her presentation. She shared about her work with cancer patients, hospice and Victory in the Valley. I could tell right away that this hair person was one special lady. I had no idea how our paths would crisscross and that she would become a very good friend.

Sometime later we were horrified when our daughter, Laurel, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She has always had beautiful thick hair, and along with all of the frightening issues the thoughts of being bald was very hard for her. LeeAnn came through—shaving her head as chemo treatments



LEEANN CALLAHAN, OR BETTER KNOWN AS THE "WIG LADY," SERVES FASHION SEEKERS AND CANCER PATIENTS THROUGH HER WEST DOUGLAS LOCATION.

zapped her hair. Then she spent the time needed finding a hairpiece that would look good. As Laurel's hair slowly began to return, Lee Ann gave her a really cool "buzz cut". More than anything LeeAnn listened patiently and compassionately.

We soon learned that this response was the norm for this awesome Wig Lady. Day after day a parade of hurting people find comfort in her chair. It's not unusual for her to deliver a wig to a

homebound cancer patient with no transportation. Realizing the trauma of losing hair to chemo as well as those with other rare diseases or just thinning hair she works with each client to find just the right solution. She is quite a master craftsperson as she skillfully recreates a full head of hair through wigs and other solutions. This is especially meaningful for children and teenagers with skin diseases.

Gene and I have been blessed to partner with LeeAnn on occasion to help ministry persons who have a hair crisis through our Shepherds' Fold Ministries. We are so delighted to send them to her because we know she will listen carefully and weigh the options. Her shop on West 13th is a haven for the hurting as she gives them hope through working magic with her healing hands. Like Christ's illustration in Matthew 5:41 she never hesitates to go the second mile if that will help someone.

It was fun to walk with Laurel and our family along with LeeAnn in the annual Victory in the Valley East Meets West Walk/Run. I was amazed at the number of cancer survivors who went to LeeAnn to thank her for making their nightmare months of diagnosis, treatments, scary options, and uncertainty more bearable.

So all I can say, LeeAnn, is—my hat's off to you! Thanks for giving a whole new meaning to "wiggling out."

Joyce Williams...