

County breast cancer survivors honored

C. JEROME CROW-DN Staff Writer

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REDDING Four Tehama County breast cancer survivors were honored with their portraits being placed on the Wall of Hope on Friday.

Cathy Wilson, Cathy Hubbard and Dana Lee Cander, all of Red Bluff, and Christina Nevarez of Los Molinos are among the 54 north valley women who were added to the wall.

The goal of the Wall of Hope is to collect a mile's worth of pictures from across the United States, explained founder and president Marilyn Axelrod Burch.

Eventually, the plan is to take the wall to Washington D.C., for an event called Mile of Survival, planned within three years.

The portraits were unveiled at a special luncheon held in Redding at the Riverview Golf and Country Club.

Wilson, who teaches American Sign Language, was part of the program signing to "Because You Loved Me."

Axelrod Burch also spoke about the purpose of the wall and how it calls attention to the cause of ending breast and other cancers.

Wilson was diagnosed with cancer in 1989 and again in 2004. She has been a vigilant supporter of Relay For Life for the American Cancer Society and served this year as honorary chair.

"Cancer has been a gift to me," she said. "As strange as it may sound, instead of seeing obstacles, I see opportunities. Life is grand."

Hubbard has been a survivor for 22 years. She works for the Red Bluff Union High School District.

Hubbard credits the love and support of her husband of 37 years, Dave. They are the parents of four and grandparents of one.

"I was diagnosed when my son was 3; now he's 25," said Hubbard. "It's been a blessing that I've been able to be with him as he grew up."

Cander and Nevarez were unable to attend the event.

Cander was diagnosed in 1999. In the introduction read about her before her portrait was unveiled, she said she was grateful for the hope that the wall builds.

Nevarez, who has been a survivor for the past 11 years, gave all the credit to God.

"Jesus Christ helped me. He heals and offers hope," said Nevarez in the statement that was read. "Another gift is my husband."

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