

# People *Movers and Shakers in the Community*

## ENCOURAGING WOMEN WITH CANCER

### Lithonia survivor rallies support for others through her Lived2tell organization

By Lisa Harrison Jackson

Cheryl Brown is a survivor. The Lithonia resident beat breast cancer three times. Now, she reaches out to others fighting cancer, to give them encouragement and financial assistance through her organization, Lived2tell Cancer Support Outreach.

This month, Lived2tell will hold its second annual "Wigs on the Run" fashion parade, dinner and discussion at De-borah's Place, 4600 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain. The wig fashion show will include "can-survivors" (women who are undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatments) and professional models whose lives have been touched by cancer. At the fashion show, can-survivors in the audience will have the opportunity to select one of the wigs modeled in the show, receive a complimentary makeover and walk the runway with confidence.

"We want to raise money to help others," said Brown. "I have clients who are in need of home repairs, mortgage payments and utilities to be restored. Some need transportation to make their treatment appointments, some meal preparation and house cleaning but most all need encouragement."

Brown came up with the word "can-survivor" as a way to positively describe an individual with the disease.

"A can-survivor is an individual who is undergoing chemo or radiation and can survive, as long as they have a positive attitude," said Brown.

Brown was first diagnosed with cancer in 1985 at the age of 24. Seven years later, at 31, she experienced a recurrence. In 2000, she had a third bout. As she battled the

disease, Brown said she was often too ill to deal with anything, including her own expenses.

"When I was ill, I fell behind on my mortgage," she said. "Thankfully, my church came through for me, but there are other people out there in the same situation who aren't as fortunate."

After she survived the third recurrence, Brown was determined to do something and Lived2tell was born. Lived2tell is a non-profit organization that provides education outreach, support and financial assistance to individuals with cancer.

The upcoming fashion show event is bringing together individuals from the community who are donating their time and talents. Local designers, Nicole Deal and Silvia Benson, are donating fashions for the runway walk, while Trevor Elcock of N3 Photography will be on hand to take candid photos. All proceeds will be donated to Lived2tell's outreach.

"I think what she's doing is wonderful," said Nicole Deal, who will be designing a pink clothing line for the show. "She is sincere and dedicated to what she's doing and inspired me to be a part of the event."

Brown said while she is thankful to all who are donating time to the event, she credits Charles Onyirimba who has helped both as a board member and sponsor from the very beginning.

Onyirimba got involved with Lived2tell after becoming Brown's personal attorney for the non-profit.

"I admire Cheryl Brown for what she's doing for these



Cheryl Brown

women," said Onyirimba. "She is helping to encourage them in a positive way."

The "Wigs on the Run" event will be held July 29, 5 to 9 p.m., at De-Borah's Place, 4600 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain. A \$30 donation for attendees is requested. For more information about Lived2tell, call Cheryl Brown at 770-484-8811 or visit her organization's web site at [www.lived2tell.org](http://www.lived2tell.org).