

Breast cancer awareness

Inventor to highlight fundraiser

Lisa Crites, the inventor of the "Shower Shirt," the first and only water-resistant garment to protect mastectomy patients after surgery, will be the speaker at this year's Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon.

The event is being co-hosted by ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital (DRH) and the Zonta Club of Defiance. This event is the first of two Fountain to Fountain events. The other event is the Fountain to Fountain 5K race, set for Oct. 1 at the hospital at 9 a.m.

Proceeds from both events will go toward the discounted mammogram program at DRH. This program provides uninsured women in Defiance and surrounding communities with \$25 screening mammograms.

The luncheon will be held Sept. 28 with registration at 11:30 a.m. at the Second Baptist Church, 1945 E. Second St., Defiance. The time of the luncheon is from noon-1 p.m.

The event is open to the public, but attendees must buy a ticket for \$20. Call 419-784-7326 for more information.

The "Use it Now, Wear it Later" Shower Shirt was invented after Crites underwent a bilateral mastectomy in June 2009. The product is now available at many mastectomy boutiques across the United States.

"The shower shirt is a post-surgical,

water-resistant garment designed by a breast cancer patient who had undergone a bi-lateral mastectomy followed by breast reconstruction surgery. The idea for the shower shirt was created after the patient asked her physician when she could take a shower post-mastectomy. She was told a shower and/or bath was not possible until the surgical drains were removed, and that time frame would vary between two and three weeks.

"The patient began researching water resistant garments which could be used for post-mastectomy showering/bathing. To her surprise, no garment existed so the first shower shirt design prototype was created from a beauty salon cape." (Excerpt from the Shower Shirt website.)

Crites has more than 19 years of experience in the fields of broadcast journalism, corporate healthcare communications, public relations, crisis communications and news issue management. She is the director of media strategy and new business development for Wuesthoff Health System,

She is a member of the Cocoa Village Playhouse board of directors, a Breast Friends of Florida Advisory Council member, and a Central Florida Second Harvest Food Bank and Central Florida Homeless Coalition volunteer.

For the second year in a row, Crites has been selected by the American Hospital Association Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development to present at their national conference.



Crites