

# Woman faces cancer head-on

## NE resident launches support group for others

By Carrie Watters

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**SCOTTSDALE** — At 35, Lauren Daniels faced one of life's greatest fears.

She had breast cancer.

And she had three children, ages 1 to 11.

Some people crumble when faced with tragedy.

Others tap into their greatest strengths.

A bilateral mastectomy and less than a year later, Daniels chose the latter. The Scottsdale woman launched an organization to empower women: the Happily Ever After League.

"It was a calling for me. To make sense of why I got this," Daniels said.

In its third year, the non-profit group provides financial and emotional support to mothers going through cancer treatment, and their families.

The group, through donations and fundraisers, has averaged 60 grants a year — each about \$600 — to Arizona mothers. Sometimes it is a gift card to a grocery or discount store.

This year, the group bought



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Healing House will offer quiet places and support groups for women like breast-cancer patient Peggy Lynn (left), and Lauren Daniels, who formed the Happily Ever After League.

*"It was a calling for me. To make sense of why I got this."*

**Lauren Daniels**

Founder says of Happily Ever After League

a home in the Northeast Valley that will be called the Healing House.

There, mothers will find quiet places and support

groups, as well as activities for their families.

The Happily Ever After League will host a golf tournament and a ball in September

to raise money to help open the Healing House.

Another is touched by the group, **Page 10**

# Non-profit steps up to help cancer patient

By Carrie Watters

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**SCOTTSDALE** — Peggy Lynn is a Glendale mom whose life forever shifted in 1998.

The mother of three, still weaning her youngest son, was diagnosed with breast cancer at 34.

Faced with a fierce enemy, the cancer became a sieve, shaking out what was important in her life.

The stay-at-home mom found herself traveling to Washington to lobby for better research on breast cancer in younger women. She found courage to end an unhealthy marriage. And, she dusted off her talents to try to earn a living — electronically publishing a parenting workbook and a book of inspirational messages.

Nearly a decade later, Lynn plans to publish her books in print. Her oldest son has entered college.

But her battle continues.

She was diagnosed with her third round of cancer this summer.

Recently, the Happily Ever After League, started by Scottsdale resident Lauren Daniels, provided Lynn's three children with gift cards for back-to-



TOM TINGLE/THE REPUBLIC

school shopping. Lauren Daniels (left), who formed the Happily Ever After League, helped cancer patient Peggy Lynn buy clothes for her kids.

school shopping.

After years of struggling, Lynn said her sons were overwhelmed to each

have \$200 to spend on school clothes and shoes.

The league, formed in 2004, offers financial and emotional support to mothers with cancer and their families.

"It's amazing what she is doing," Lynn said.

Lynn and Daniels met this summer for a breakfast that turned into lunch, as the two compared their stories. Both women have worked to find the good that can come from a bad hand.

Like Daniels, Lynn is working to establish a non-profit group to support families.

She sells her electronic books at [www.hopesromance.com](http://www.hopesromance.com).

"I embrace what I can control each day," Lynn said. "If I looked much further ahead, I would panic."

Lynn, with the help of friends, the occasional anonymous donor, prayer and groups like the Happily Ever After League, continues to move forward as she deals with decisions about cancer treatment.

The disease is an adversary that assaults one's life, she said.

"It would be so easy to say 'I'm done with this adversary. He wins.' But there's my kids," Lynn said.

## Happily Ever After League Golf Classic

**When:** 7:30 a.m., Sept. 28. (6 a.m. registration).

**Where:** The 500 Club, 4707 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix.

**Cost:** \$125 per player.

**Entry deadline:** Sept. 14.

**Details:** Includes breakfast and a noon lunch and awards ceremony. Four-person mixed scramble format.

## HEAL Charity Ball

**When:** 6 p.m., Sept. 29.

**Where:** Troon Country Club, 25000 N. Windy Walk Drive, Scottsdale.

**Cost:** \$125 per person.

**Details:** Dinner, dancing, gaming tables, a live auction and prizes during the ball that is themed "A Royal Cruise."

**Information:** For either event, [www.happilyeverafterleague.org](http://www.happilyeverafterleague.org), or (480) 275-0613.