

Local Women Give Back to Others Through Their Work

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Waves of Gratitude is an online company created and made successful by women who decided to take a risk and redefine themselves. At a time when financial security was supposed to have been a given, they were faced with the uncertainties brought by unemployment. They decided to become risk-takers, relying on the validity of the expression, "Success is when preparation meets opportunity."

Derry residents Cheryl Nordyke and Kim Wierman, co-owners of Waves of Gratitude, were convinced

that everyone has something to be grateful for. They vowed at the outset they would make giving back to others a cornerstone of their new endeavor.

And they have kept that promise.

Waves of Gratitude offers jewelry and apparel designed to symbolize the importance of expressing gratitude, and a key part of their company culture is the belief that giving back through carefully selected charities, strengthens their message. Through Wavelet Productions, their line of sterling silver inspirational jewelry and other products serve as reminders to people

who visit them to find gratitude and hope in their lives.

Waves of Gratitude (www.wavesofgratitude.com) also provides visitors with a forum for blogging, where they can relate their reasons to be grateful.

The company has chosen to partner with The Get In Touch Foundation and New England Walkers for Knockers to raise awareness and find a cure for breast cancer. Waves of Gratitude has pledged to donate \$3 to each organization from each sale of its Large Branches of Hope necklace.

The women have set a goal of donating \$150,000 to The Get In Touch

Foundation, while helping to reach team fundraising goals for the New England Walkers for Knockers.

"The pieces of jewelry we had created were intended to be a reminder to women that no matter what they face in life, they are strong and beautiful," said Nordyke.

The New England Walkers for Knockers (NE-W4K) participates annually in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer-Boston and since 2007, has raised almost \$57,000. The Get In Touch Foundation, established in 2004, is designed to encourage women of all ages to "Get In Touch" with their

bodies as part of an ongoing crusade to educate women about the importance of early breast cancer detection.

"We met Mary Ann Wasil Nilan, founder of The Get In Touch Foundation, at the Make Mine a Million conference over a year ago," said Wierman. "We followed her progress in developing her program to help girls in fifth through 12th grade learn the importance of and the how-to of breast self-exam. We felt that we could really make a difference giving to such an organization. Cheryl's relationship with a member of the New England Walkers

for Knockers led us to partner with that organization."

The two women remain as passionate today as they were when they took the initial plunge, driven by need and fueled by their vision.

For more information about New England Walkers for Knockers, visit www.new4k.org. For more information on The Get In Touch Foundation, visit www.getintouchfoundation.org. And for more information on the Inspired Jewelry and Apparel by Waves of Gratitude, visit www.wavesofgratitude.com or contact Cassandra Nicholson at 617-423-2801 x 203 or at pr@wavesofgratitude.com.