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# STAMPED *with love*

Philadelphia-area nonprofit Unite for HER puts the care in care package with the national launch of a new wellness gift for breast cancer patients.

By Jolene Hart

Talk to breast cancer patients who have participated in nonprofit **Unite for HER's** ([uniteforher.org](http://uniteforher.org)) yearlong program and you'll hear nothing short of awe—at the depth of personal support, the breadth of care received and the patient-to-patient connections fostered within the community. Since 2009, Unite for HER has funded and delivered tens of thousands of complementary therapies—think medical acupuncture, yoga, oncology massage, nutrition counseling, organic CSA vegetable shares—to area breast cancer patients, including more than 100 metastatic patients to whom the nonprofit has pledged continuing care that renews every six months in order to provide comfort, support and empowerment. Unite for HER now partners with over 30 hospitals and cancer centers to serve more than 1,200 newly diagnosed area women annually (that number is expected to rise to more than 1,400 in 2019).

It's a program so unparalleled and so full of heart that patients can't help but share it with friends, neighbors and loved ones, especially those who find themselves facing their own breast cancer diagnosis. But the nonprofit hasn't been able to reach breast cancer

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNITE FOR HER

From left: A Unite for HER participant receives a reiki treatment at one of the nonprofit's popular Wellness Days; the HER carebox is filled with specially chosen items.



patients outside the Philadelphia area—until now. This month, Unite for HER launches its first national offering—a curated self-care package called the HER carebox—with the aim of spreading its support and service to breast cancer patients nationwide. “We understand that people have a hard time knowing what to get for loved ones who are diagnosed with breast cancer. This box is a wealth of information; everything inside was intentionally chosen for its role on a woman’s path to wellness,” says Sue Weldon, who founded Unite for HER after finding complementary therapies to be an essential part of her own successful battle with breast cancer.

Each box features a carefully chosen range of self-care items (many of them professionally recommended or patient favorites) that support breast cancer patients, from natural and organic beauty products safe for chemotherapy-treated skin, to therapeutic tea, inspirational books, robes and cosmetic bags. The HER carebox comes in three sizes (\$50 to \$200), and 100 percent of the proceeds go to Unite for HER.

Even as the first boxes are being readied for their cross-country journeys, Weldon grapples with the question of how Unite for HER can do more. “The big question for us is where are we going next. What we do is unique, and so hands-on. It’s a mission that’s proven to be very successful and it’s life-changing. We know this programming is needed for breast cancer patients across the nation, not just in Philadelphia.”