

# Cancer Support Center participants share their work at art show

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Homewood's Cancer Support Center offers many opportunities for therapy, including art therapy. Artists who have utilized the program displayed their artwork at the center during an evening program on Nov. 30.

In the art therapy program, participants make artwork either at the center or at their homes. Kathleen Daily, clinical program director and art therapist, described art therapy as "another way to cope with cancer without necessarily needing to talk about cancer."

Among the 15 artists participating in the show were Terry Foote, a poet who uses photography to illustrate his poems, and Geri Zamora, a crafter and mixed media painter whose artwork is made entirely out of reused material. Both use the Cancer Support Center's services after losing a spouse.

The title of Foote's display, Picturesque Poetry, was the same title as his book of poetry. For his art show display, Foote included a large print of his book's cover, three poems accompanied by three photos, and six additional photos. In his book, every poem is accompanied with a photograph he took.

One of the poems he had on display was



Terry Foote standing with his Picturesque Poetry display at the Cancer Support Center's artists show.

titled "State of Grace," and it was paired with a photograph of two purple flowers in the foreground and one in the background.

"It's about two elderly people that find each other and start to develop a relationship with the kind of sword hanging over their head that they don't have much time," said Foote. "The two flowers represent both

of the people. And if you'll notice the flowers are a little tattered and not real pretty. They're aged. And then this [third flower] over here that's starting to bud, that symbolizes their relationship."

Picturesque Poetry is self-published through Book Baby and is available for purchase on Book Baby's website. Foote said

Flossmoor's Bookman's Outpost, may have copies available.

Zamora displayed her mixed media artwork that included paintings with 3D items attached and crosses that she painted and glued beads onto.

"I believe in recycling, repurposing and reusing things. So, all of my art, everything I make, comes from repurposed, recycled and refurbished materials," said Zamora. "I never did any art until I came to the Cancer Support Center five years ago. I was grieving. I lost my husband to cancer. And it's what has got me through."

As the program progressed, Shamiah Byrd, program director and art therapist, decided to read her poem "My Journey," to the audience.

"Cancer didn't kill me," Byrd said. "It only gave me a new day to embrace the real me."

Byrd said that while the poem was a part of the art show, it was a spontaneous decision for her to share the poem. Byrd said "My Journey" is about her journey with breast cancer and how it was a "blessing in disguise."

The Cancer Support Center, 2028 Elm Road, offers its services free of charge to cancer survivors and their loved ones. The center provides mental health services, nutrition consultation, grief counseling, free wigs and art therapy.

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