

LIFE

The People's Pharmacy

A word of advice: Don't use
kerosene to control head lice
PAGE 4C

Coming Tuesday

Looking for somewhere different
for your child's birthday party?
In the Mommyhood offers ideas

Accomplished and caring, women share their talents

Meet the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame inductees.

The San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, established in 1984, honors those women whose accomplishments have contributed substantially to life in South Texas.

This year's class of inductees includes a woman who helps teach children to play golf and, in turn, teaches them about life. Another, an immigrant from the Philippines, started with only \$31 and built a business that has become a national model in physical therapy. A third left a lucrative career to establish a support center for low-income women who have breast cancer.

The other eight women are just as impressive and, together, they represent the best of San Antonio and the surrounding area.

The induction ceremony is Thursday in the Watson Fine Arts Theater on the campus of St. Philip's College, 1801 Martin Luther King Drive. A reception is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by the induction ceremony from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased by calling (210) 696-6324.

Innovation

Five years ago, Olga Young fought a battle with breast cancer; quit her job and got to work.

Today, she's the executive director of the SLEW Wellness Center, an organization she founded to help low-income, uninsured and underinsured women who have cancer.

SLEW, which stands for Support Lending for Emotional



YOUNG

Well-Being, is the largest and most inclusive cancer after-care treatment facility for women in San Antonio. It's a place where they can get wigs, special bras, prostheses, counseling, physical therapy, massages — in short, anything and everything they need as they continue their cancer recovery.

"My concept was if you are already weak and (nauseated) and tired from cancer treatment and may not even have transportation, it's so difficult trying to get from place to place to get all of the services that you need," Young says. "So, why not combine them all under one roof?"

Young has been there. She was an area sales manager for AT&T when her cancer was diagnosed. Even as Young went through treatment, she considered herself one of the lucky ones: She had health insurance and everything else she needed to get through the process. Other women she met weren't as fortunate.

"It just touched my heart so profoundly," the 51-year-old says. "After a lot of prayer, I called my boss and told him that I wasn't coming back to work after I was finished with my chemo and radiation and that there was just something else that I felt I needed to do."

Now located at 12521 Nacogdoches Road, SLEW has grown from zero clients five years ago to more than 400 clients today.

"There's nothing more gratifying than to be able to help a woman who comes in and is just feeling really, really low and depressed because they don't look normal anymore," Young says. "They've lost their hair; they've lost their breasts. We can get them all of the services that they need."

"We're really just reaching out into the community to fill a gap that was not being met."

— David Uhler