



The girlpARTs project is designed to create awareness about the connection between ovarian cancer and other cancers, especially breast.

24 artists. 24 community leaders. 24 display locations. Music & Art Fest

NormaLeah has selected 24 local artists and partnered them with 24 community leaders to create artistic works of art that are being displayed throughout the community from September 15 to October 15.

On October 26, the bodices will be gathered in one place at our girlpARTs fest at River Music Experience (RME) in Davenport for an evening of musical performances by recording Caly Bevier, ovarian cancer survivor and a finalist on America's Got Talent. There will also be an artists' market and art raffle. Tickets are \$10 (ovarian cancer survivors and children under 12 are free).

All women are at risk for ovarian cancer, even if they no longer have their ovaries. Women with a family history of breast and other cancers or who have had a history of gynecologic issues may be at increased risk.

Ovarian cancer symptoms are subtle and easy to ignore because they mimic non-life threatening conditions like menopause, gastro-intestinal or urinary tract diseases. If you notice changes in your daily habits and they persist for more than 14 days, please seek medical attention and request diagnostic testing to rule out ovarian cancer.

The pap test does not screen for ovarian cancer. Women are not screened for this disease, so knowing the symptoms, assessing your risk and seeking proper medical attention can save your life or the life of someone you love.



Samantha Beitzel



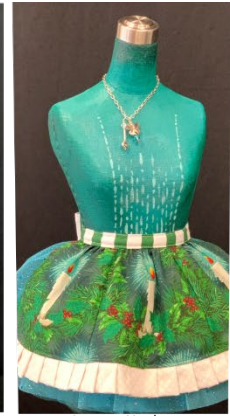
Cathy Bolkcom



Elizabeth Dean



Gina Kirschbaum



Laney Krebs



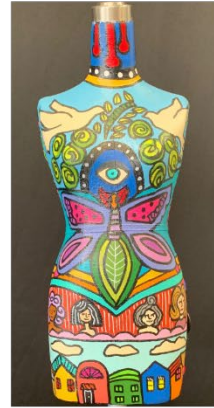
Diana Kreider



Carolyn Krueger



Kimberly Kruse



Lisa Mahar



Molly McGuire



Angela Fairchild Moody



Kristin Nguyen



Jeanne O'Melia



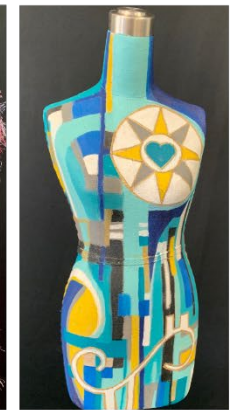
Kelli Roeling



Rowen Schusheim-Anderson



Rowen Schusheim-Anderson



Tony Seabolt



Natalie Sereda



Julie Smith



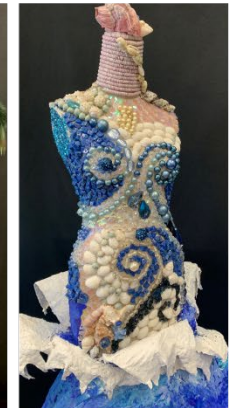
J. Wahlen



Susan Wahlmann



Debbie Weindruch



Mary Wells



Amber Williams

2019 girlpARTs project Bodice Write-ups and Locations

Artist: Samantha Beitzel
Community Leader: John Singer
Benefactor: Law Firm of Winstein, Kavensky & Cunningham
Location: 224 18th Street, 4th Floor, Rock Island, IL
Bodice Name: "Bloom"

Samantha Beitzel (artist) was inspired by the many stories of women who battle ovarian cancer and the considerable strength it takes to undergo all that comes with a cancer diagnosis. The artist chose to embody feminine strength and resiliency through nature, alluding to the ever-constant cycle of growth. "When you're in a dark place, you sometimes tend to think you've been buried. Perhaps you've been planted. Bloom." She hopes that women going through a cancer diagnosis stay strong and resilient and never lose hope. John Singer (community leader) is the managing partner at the law firm of Winstein, Kavensky & Cunningham, whose senior partner recently died of cancer.

Artist: Cathy Bolkcom
Community Leader: Lisa Killinger
Benefactor: Lisa Killinger
Location: Palmer Chiropractic Clinic, 1002 N. Perry St., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Tell Your Story"

Cathy Bolkcom (artist) has created a bodice that carries a deep emotional resonance. When Cathy was six years old, her grandmother passed from ovarian cancer. The artist currently has two friends who are living with the disease. Cathy hopes her work conveys to women the importance of knowing their family medical history and inspires empowerment. Lisa Z. Killinger, our community leader, and her mother are both gynecologic cancer survivors. Dr. Killinger has been a professor of Diagnosis at Palmer College of Chiropractic for 25 years where she teaches a women's health class as well as several other subjects.

Artist: Elizabeth Dean
Community Leader: Elizabeth Round
Benefactor: Village Home Stores
Location: 105 S. State St., Geneseo, IL
Bodice Name: "Healing Strength"

The bodice of Elizabeth Dean (artist) evokes the feeling of an armored warrior but includes feminine touches to represent the feminine strength needed to overcome the fear involved with a cancer diagnosis. As a young woman, she underwent therapy for pre-cancerous cells on her cervix and has a history of ovarian cysts, resulting in a passion for ovarian cancer awareness for women of all ages. Elizabeth Round (community leader) believes in the power of community when faced with a cancer diagnosis and hosts a local weekly design show for Village Home Stores.

Artist: Gina Kirschbaum
Community Leader: Marlin Whitmer
Benefactor: Paragon Interiors
Location: UnityPoint Cancer Center, 500 John Deere Rd., Moline, IL
Bodice Name: "Dragonfly"

Gina Kirschbaum (artist) is a three-time cancer survivor who is interested in the spiritual meaning of animals and felt the dragonfly fit perfectly with a cancer journey. Her artwork reflects her personality, with the intent of always bringing happiness to people. This whimsical piece uses paint and papers to depict nature; the sun symbolizes life. The Rev. Marlin Whitmer (community leader) is a certified Episcopal hospital chaplain and was a caregiver for his first wife who battled four kinds of cancer over a 21-year period.

Artist: Laney Krebs
Community Leader: Joedy Cook
Benefactor: Ballet Quad Cities School of Dance
Location: 617 17th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201
Bodice Name: "Lisa Rae"

Laney Krebs (artist) is inspired by an ovarian cancer survivor with a tradition of making tamales and giving them as holiday gifts. Her bodice draws upon NormaLeah's mission through the hopeful teal glow of the candles in the seasonal fabric and reflected in the repetition of linear patterns emerging from the bodice's center and base. Joedy Cook (community leader) is founder and CEO of Ballet Quad Cities whose close childhood friend, Lisa, is in treatment for ovarian cancer. Joedy's brother created the stunning butterfly necklace that completes the piece.

Artist: Diana Kreider
Community Leader: Michele Dane
Benefactor: Michele Dane
Location: Genesis Cancer Center, 1351 W. Central Park Ave., Pavilion 1, Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Dryad"

Diana Kreider (artist) is an ovarian cancer survivor who was inspired by tales of Dryads living in trees. The mixed media piece represents a totem of powerful womanhood, rooted to the earth. A pool at the top is for reflection of what the artist has experienced with the disease and the butterflies represent the freedom to discover what's ahead. Michele Dane (community leader), with 30 years of healthcare planning experience, is the director of marketing, communications and business development at Genesis Health Systems.

Artist: Carolyn Krueger
Community Leader: Jenni Swanson
Benefactor: Doris & Victor Day Foundation
Location: The Artery, 1629 Second Ave., Rock Island, IL
Bodice Name: "Monarch"

Carolyn Krueger (artist) works primarily in clay but chose to represent the Monarch butterfly in stunning fashion for her bodice. The butterfly is a universal symbol for ovarian cancer, symbolizing change, endurance, hope and life. It is also believed to represent souls of loved ones who have passed. Jenni Swanson (community leader) is a Rock Island alderwoman. Her godmother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer 60 years ago and is still alive at age 95.

Artist: Kimberly Kruse
Community Leader: Melissa Sharer
Benefactor: Pain Centers of Iowa
Location: 5515 Utica Ridge Rd., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Women of the World Unite"

Kimberly Kruse (artist) based her creative vision on inspiration from some of her favorite artists including Vincent Van Gogh and Georgia O'Keeffe. Women from around the world are portrayed holding hands as the female beauty holds the world in her arms to represent unity and equality for all. Mehndi work on the arms, legs and forehead incorporate the artist's love of body painting along with elements of glitter. Melissa Sharer (community leader) is the director of the Master of Public Health program at St. Ambrose University and has spent the last 25 years working in health care throughout the world, from Angola to Zimbabwe.

Artist: Lisa Mahar
Community Leader: Carmen Darland
Benefactor: Quad City Arts
Location: 1715 Second Ave., Rock Island, IL
Bodice Name: "New Life"

Lisa Mahar (artist) uses her own unique design filled with bright colors and a whimsical flair. The butterflies represent a metamorphosis in life and a new start. The women signify a community of sisterhood and how they come together to lift each other up. Empowerment is the main theme of most of her artwork. Carmen Darland (community leader) is Interim Executive Director at the Figge Art Museum and has elevated the importance of the arts through her long tenure as Executive Director of Quad City Arts.

Artist: Molly McGuire
Community Leader: Sherry Ristau
Benefactor: Paragon Interiors
Location: Figge Art Museum. 225 W. Second St., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Blooming Heart"

With a passion for women's health, Molly McGuire (artist) illustrates the beauty of the female body using flowers to represent meaningful female anatomy. Her bodice represents the female form which is as powerful as it is beautiful, seldom perfect and always wonderful like nature itself. Sherry Ristau (community leader) is the CEO/President of the Quad City Community Foundation. She lost her sister to cancer earlier this year and has faith that her mother-in-law, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2018, will continue to beat the disease.

Artist: Angela Moody
Community Leader: Honey Bedell
Benefactor: Honey & Daniel Bedell
Location: Scott Community College Urban Campus, 101 W. 3rd St., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Resurgence"

Angela Fairchild Moody (artist) created her mixed media bodice after having a dream about a butterfly. She shares her vision of the butterfly as a positive symbol of hope, change and spiritual growth. Thankfully, her mother is healthy after being diagnosed with pre-cancerous cells and undergoing pro-active surgery. Honey Bedell (community leader) is the Chief of Staff for Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and was one of NormaLeah's first volunteers. They give special thanks to their sisters in the Wonderful Women Book Club for sharing their vision and inspiration for this piece.

Artist: Kristin Nguyen
Community Leader: Gwen Tombergs
Benefactor: Furnish 123
Location: 902 W. Kimberly Rd., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Mother Nature"

Kristin Nguyen (artist) communicates an important message through her bodice . . . that every life matters and to love everyone without judging. With so much negativity and hate in the world, she wants to spread kindness and love and remind people to get back to mother nature. Her work includes genuine clear quartz healing crystals. Gwen Tombergs (community leader) is president of the Quad City Storm. One of her close childhood friends has been battling ovarian cancer for the past year.

Artist: Jeanne O'Melia
Community Leader: Dave Geenen
Benefactor: Dave, Sonya, Violet & Jack Geenen
Location: Rock Island City Hall, 1528 3rd Ave., Rock Island, IL
Bodice Name: "Pucci on Parade"

Inspired by fashion designer Emilio Pucci, Jeanne O'Melia (artist) created a feminine form using a paper mache technique adorned with hand-made flowers, brightly colored beads and -- of course -- a teal butterfly, the universal symbol and color of ovarian cancer awareness. Dave Geenen (community leader) is a Rock Island alderman and Executive Director of the Doris & Victor Day and the Rauch Family Foundations.

Artist: Kelli Roeling
Community Leader: Margaret Ortiz
Benefactor: Massage Envy
Location: 5302 Elmore Ave., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Fight like a Goddess – Kick Cancer's Ass"

Kelli Roeling (artist) creates a bodice representing the undeniable beauty that all women hold and that women are strong and continue to grow no matter what life puts us through. Inspired by several loved ones affected by breast and cervical cancer, her themes of nature, growth and beauty convey how women are tough enough to persevere through a cancer diagnosis. Margaret Ortiz (community leader) is owner of Massage Envy and her sister Beth, who died from ovarian cancer in 2011 is always in her thoughts.

Artist: Rowen Schussheim-Anderson & students in (Art 253) Fiber Sculpture, Spring Term 2019 at Augustana College
Community Leaders: Steve & Jane Bahls
Benefactor: Steve & Jane Bahls
Location: Augustana College Library, 3435 9 ½ St., Rock Island, IL
Bodice Name: "Thriver 1"

Rowen Schussheim-Anderson and students in (Art 253) Fiber Sculpture, Spring Term 2019 at Augustana College (artists) create two dynamic sculptures that impart the concept of thriving, not just surviving, after a cancer diagnosis. Rowen's sister was impacted by breast cancer and the works bring attention to breast cancer through a pink bodice and ovarian cancer with a teal bodice. The bodices were produced using found objects and collaborative decision-making. Steve Bahls (community leader) serves as the president of Augustana College with his wife, Jane (community leader), by his side. They have a dear friend who has had ovarian cancer for years and is currently cancer-free. Thriver 2 can be viewed at District Drugs in Rock Island.

Artist: Rowen Schussheim-Anderson & students in (Art 253) Fiber Sculpture, Spring Term 2019 at Augustana College
Community Leaders: Angie Normoyle
Benefactor: District Drugs
Location: 319 18th St., Rock Island, IL
Bodice Name: "Thriver 2"

Rowen Schussheim-Anderson and students in (Art 253) Fiber Sculpture, Spring Term 2019 at Augustana College (artists) create two dynamic sculptures that impart the concept of thriving, not just surviving, after a cancer diagnosis. Rowen's sister was impacted by breast cancer and the works bring attention to breast cancer through a pink bodice and ovarian cancer with a teal bodice. The works were produced using found objects and collaborative decision-making. Angie Normoyle (community leader) serves on the Rock Island County Board and is committed to education, the arts and community. Her connections to several different cancers have taught her the importance of knowing cancer symptoms and risks. Thriver 1 can be viewed at the Augustana College Library.

Artist: Tony Seabolt
Community Leader: Dora Villarreal
Benefactor: Nate Nieman Law
Location: Bucktown Center for the Arts, 225 . 2nd Ave., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Healing Justice"

Tony Seabolt (artist) is our only male artist who chose to participate because his mother and daughter have been challenged by gynecologic issues. He has applied his abstract painting method to reflect the style, thoughts and symbolic ideas of radiant energy, strength and empathy. The scales of justice represent the involvement of the community leader, Dora Villarreal, Rock Island County States Attorney and President of the Rock Island County Bar Association.

Artist: Natalie Sereda
Community Leaders: Jodie Kavensky
Benefactor: KWQC-TV6
Location: NormaLeah Ovarian Cancer Initiative, 1612 Second Ave., Rock Island, IL
Bodice Name: "Faeth – Fall Woodland Fairy"

Natalie Sereda (artist) is a cervical cancer survivor who draws upon her wreath-making abilities to create a bodice that symbolizes feminine energy and beauty in all its shapes and forms. Fae is another name for fairies and woodlands are a place of transformation. The name Faeth is a play on both, along with hope and everything spiritual and beautiful to come. Jodie Kavensky (community leader) is the founder and CEO of NormaLeah Ovarian Cancer Initiative; this project combines her two passions -- art and ovarian cancer advocacy.

Artist: Julie Smith
Community Leaders: Rita Aronson
Benefactor: The Group Obstetrics & Gynecology Specialists
Location: 5350 Eastern Ave., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Family Jewels"

Julie Smith (artist) is inspired by cherished memories of family heirlooms. While the bodice (and the accompanying accoutrements) signify the inheritance of family jewels, the message is much deeper than material items. Family genetics are the biggest risk factor for ovarian cancer and women need to cherish what is most important . . . their health. Dr. Rita Aronson (community leader) has been helping women stay healthy through her affiliation with The Group Obstetrics & Gynecology Specialists, P.C. for more than 25 years.

Artist: J. Wahlen
Community Leaders: Matt Mendenhall
Benefactor: Regional Development Authority
Location: Rhythm City Casino, 7077 Elmore Ave., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Luck Be A Lady"

J. Wahlen (artist) was inspired by the glitz and glamour of the bodice's locale. Using different materials such as chicken wire, resin and teal playing cards, she has created a simplified color palette by introducing black and white, resulting in a play on positive and negative contrasts. Matt Mendenhall (community leader) is CEO of Regional Development Authority and previously managed a hospice facility where he witnessed first-hand the struggles of women with cancer.

Artist: Susan Wahlmann
Community Leaders: Mike Thoms
Benefactor: Mike & Sara Thoms
Location: Rock Island Downtown Library, 401 19th St., Rock Island, IL
Bodice Name: "For Jane"

Susan Wahlmann (artist) honors Jane, the mother of a college friend who is currently living with ovarian cancer. Her bodice blends her life-long love of crochet with a free-form corset and Susan completes the piece using the Zentangle art method with a color palette that reflects ovarian cancer's awareness colors. Mike Thoms (community leader) serves as Mayor of Rock Island. His mother died from cancer in 2008, the same year as our namesake, Norma.

Artist: Debbie Weindruch
Community Leaders: Andi Ortiz
Benefactor: TownSquare Media
Location: 1229 N. Brady St., Davenport, IA
Bodice Name: "Teal Warrior Goddess"

Debbie Weindruch (artist) pays homage to all women who are living with or have lost their lives to ovarian cancer. Debbie's inspiration comes from her background as a schoolteacher. Using patches of filament paper and gold fabric, she weaves a canvas depicting the richness of these women's lives. Hand-strung beads reflect their diversity through a variety of textures and sizes. Andi Ortiz (community leader) is an on-air personality at B100 and a Quad City social influencer. She likes to add flair to things and says the feathers reflect her belief that "no matter the circumstances, every woman should feel fabulous."

Artist: Mary Wells
Community Leaders: John R. Williams
Benefactor: Riverside Family Dentistry
Location: 609 22nd St., Moline, IL
Bodice Name: "Gift of the Sea"

Mary Wells (artist) was inspired by Botticelli's "Birth of Venus" and Hokusai's "The Great Wave" and she blended the two styles to represent womanhood and creation. The bodice was created from found and natural objects, plaster, paint and glitter. Mary dedicates the piece to her mother, an artist and collector of found pieces who lived a short 53 years. She is also grateful to Dr. John R. Williams (community leader), a retired dentist and past president of the Illinois State Dental Society.

Artist: Amber Williams
Community Leaders: Gerry Bustos
Benefactor: Development Association of Rock Island (DARI)
Location: Rock Island County Courthouse, 1317 3rd Ave., Rock Island, IL
Bodice Name: "Under the Sea"

Inspired by mermaids, Amber Williams (artist) has been creating art with self-taught collage methods most of her life. Her bodice embraces the challenges one faces when confronted with an unfamiliar situation. Her collages can be seen in several art displays around the Quad Cities this fall. Gerry Bustos (community leader) is the Rock Island County Sheriff. He is no stranger to ovarian cancer, having lost both his mother and sister to this disease.