

Southland

On the Town

Heavenly healing

Cancer victim support groups unite for fundraiser



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Daily Southtown columnist

The work of two Chicago cancer victim support groups was celebrated Thursday night at the CHI Bar in Chicago's Sheraton Hotel.

"Jammin' with Jane: Heavenly Healing" drew more than 140 people to an entertaining benefit for Faye's Light and Imerman Angels.

Faye's Light provides free spa treatments for cancer patients through Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park and St. James Hospital in Olympia Fields.

Imerman Angels pairs cancer victims with cancer survivors to provide an encouragement/support system.

The fundraiser was presented by students in Chicagoan Jane Canepa's marketing class at Chicago's Columbia College.

"I'm very happy that they chose us as one of the charities," said Vicky Weis, founder and executive director of Faye's Light.

Weis, of Olympia Fields, founded the group about 1½ years ago after her mother, Faye, died of cancer.

"I was her primary caretaker," said Weis, a former Flossmoor day spa owner.

She often gave her mother pampering treatments, including massages, manicures and pedicures.

"I tried to make her feel attractive and loved," she said.

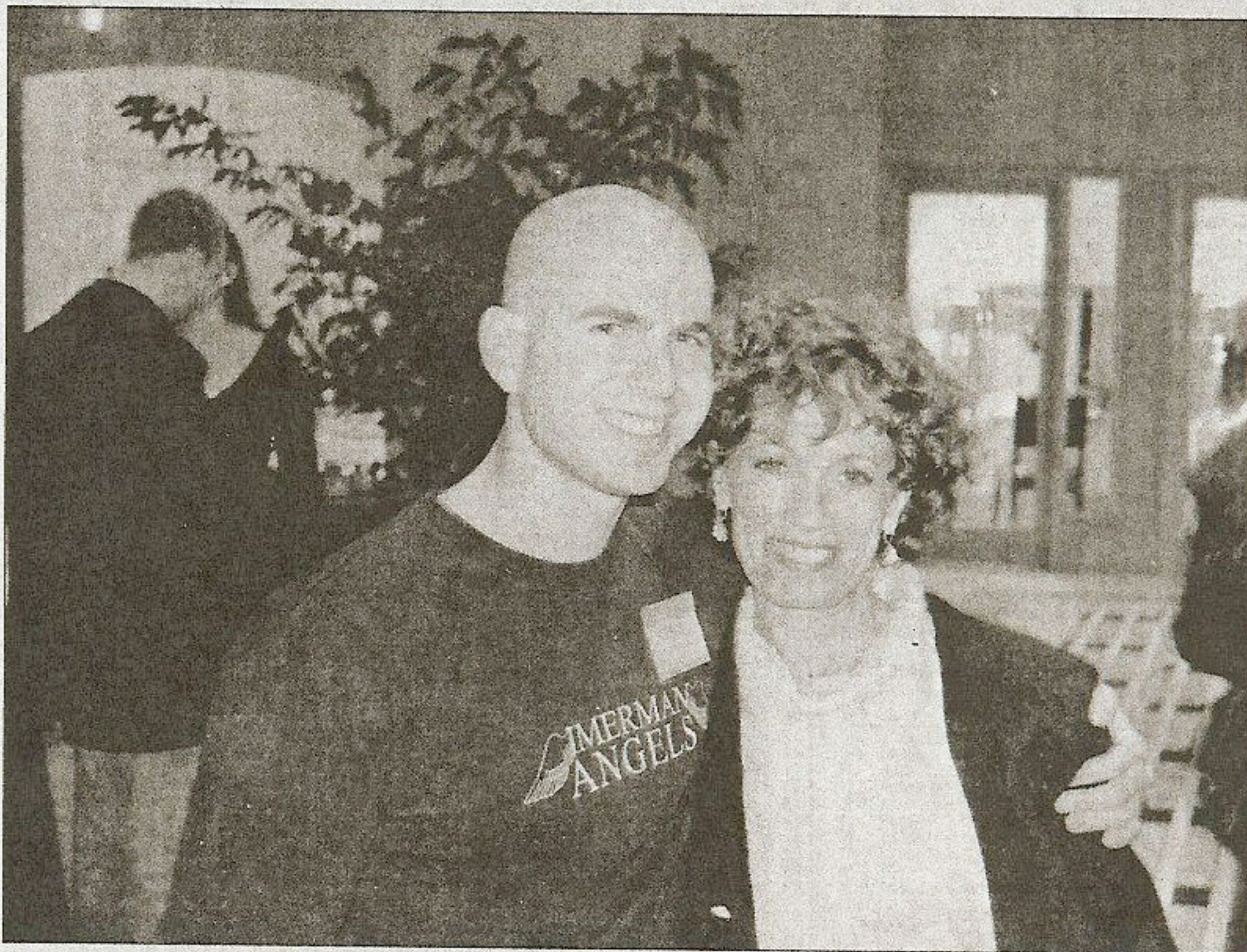
With the organization, Weis wanted to reach out to other cancer patients because it's not often they get one-on-one pampering and attention.

Her son Andy, a student in Canepa's class, and son Jeff, a singer/rapper known as Carma, helped with the event.

Jeff was one of the evening's entertainers, along with the band Hallelujah!, DJ Craig D, singer Ed Bradley and Sheena Baskerville's Urban Dance Force.

"We're proud to be able to work with and help not-for-profit organizations," said Chicago resident Carly Pribyl, vice president of public relations for the student group.

Jennifer King, of Chicago, formerly of Calumet City, said she was glad to



Jon Imerman hugs Vicky Weis during the "Jammin' With Jane: Heavenly Healing" fundraiser at the CHI Bar in Chicago's Sheraton Hotel to benefit Faye's Light and Imerman Angels. Imerman Angels is a cancer connection group that links cancer survivors. Imerman is a testicular cancer survivor. Weis is the founder of Faye's Light based in Homewood. The mission is to provide holistic treatments and spa services for patients who are undergoing cancer treatment. Her mother, Faye, was the inspiration for the group.

help with the project.

"It was a wonderful experience. I know how important the services that both organizations provide are," King said.

Student Martina Smith, of Chicago, formerly of South Holland, called the evening "powerful."

Guests bid on silent auction items. Packages included tickets to Zanies Comedy Club, the Shedd Aquarium, Lifeline Theatre and the Dance Center of Columbia College as well as restaurant, spa and club certificates.

Chicago resident Katie Kulczyk said the event was very successful in getting the word out about the worthwhile organizations.

"A lot of people worked hard on this," Kulczyk said. "It feels great to help these organizations. And we know where the money goes."

Columbia College alumnus James R.

Harris Jr., of Evergreen Park, didn't want to miss the party.

"I love this event," Harris said, adding he was also instrumental in connecting the students with Imerman Angels.

During the party, Jon Imerman thanked event attendees.

"It's wonderful that people believe in our mission and that they've come out to support us," Imerman said.

Imerman, a three-year survivor of testicular cancer, founded the group in 2003. He said it was important that people "not fight cancer alone. ... I had a network and circle of love around me. And I wanted to help make sure that others had love and support."

Maggie Szul, of Palos Heights, attended the event with three other Southland residents.

"I know that Faye's Light has had a tremendous impact at Little Company

of Mary Hospital as far as making cancer patients feel better about themselves," Szul said.

"They make them feel comfortable and special."

Wedding faire

The Hilton Oak Lawn, 9333 S. Cicero Ave., will hold a Winter Wedding Faire and Fashion Show Jan. 4.

More than 40 exhibitors will have items on display, and there will be fashions from House of Brides and Black Tie Formalwear.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. The fashion show starts at 8 p.m.

Call (708) 229-8850 to receive two free tickets to the show, while the supply lasts. Admission is \$5 at the door.

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