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Exhibit Shows Cancer Survivor's Art

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Cancer survivors will share expressions of their fight against the disease during a showcase and fundraiser in downtown Long Beach this weekend.

Pacific Shores Hematology-Oncology Foundation (PSHOF) will host its first-ever Open Canvas Evening Cancer Benefit in conjunction with a free Artist Within exhibit. Director Jann Buaiz said both events would honor people whose lives have been touched by cancer while raising support for the organization.

"We know there are so many patients who want to help others and have a quest to sustain can-

cer research and quality of life for patients," she said. "We have taken the opportunity to integrate a free exhibit while having a fundraiser."

The free Artist Within show will feature artwork from all over the world during the day on Saturday and Sunday as part of the Lilly Oncology on Canvas art contest at Metropolitan Living downtown. The contest, she said, challenges people to express emotions about cancer on canvas.

"The show tours all over. It starts with over 5,000 pieces of art and it all gets split up and goes to specific cancer centers that have requested it," Buaiz said.

On Saturday evening, the Open Canvas benefit will invite guests to an event featuring musical performances, gourmet cuisine, a silent auction and artistic exhibits. Attendees will have an opportunity to draw on a real canvas as well as view a live painting demonstration.

Cancer survivor Rechill Relatores Veronda's expression of a figure on a bicycle served as the event invitation backdrop. She will show her work as one of several community guest artists in the program. Other local names will include Liz Lucas, Frances Clare and Tiffany Tran.

"Going through cancer was a turning point in my life," Relatores Veronda said. "It hit

within the first six months I was married. It was a very trying time in my life, and I felt broken down by the whole experience. I needed a positive outlet."

The event, Buaiz said, also will unveil the organization's new Woman to Woman Campaign to raise money for females who need assistance in treatment or transportation to medical facilities.

Proceeds from the event will support PSHOF's mission to help people with cancer receive the best possible treatment and stay informed about the disease.

The Artist Within show is free and open to the public from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, and from noon to 4 p.m.

on Sunday, June 22, at Metropolitan Living, 255 Long Beach Blvd.

Admission to the Open Canvas benefit costs \$100 per person and will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. at Metropolitan Living, with programs also taking place nearby at Ten Salon and Spa, 242 E. Third St. Complimentary valet parking will be available. To register, call (800) 303-0131 or (714) 293-4848.

For more information, visit www.pacificshoresfoundation.org or www.lillyoncologyoncanvas.com.