

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Red Dress Artwork Donated to GW Women's Heart Program In Memory of Area Woman

The family of B.J. Hansen, a Silver Spring woman who lost a battle to heart disease, dedicated a piece of artwork in her honor to the George Washington University Hospital's Women's Heart Program. "BJ's Red Dress", commissioned by Michael Berman, of Berman Studios in Capitol Hill, was placed in the Women's Heart Program at Cardiology Associates' office in Washington during a dedication ceremony on November 16. Hansen's sister Nancy Pond feels that, "this beautiful painting keeps her sister B.J.'s spirit alive for her family."

B.J. Hansen's battle with heart disease ended in March of 2002, at the age of 59, as a result of a heart attack. B.J. was a mother to two daughters and grandmother to two grandchildren. The idea for this painting came about when B.J.'s family was approaching the first anniversary of her death. Her family wanted to do something to honor her and they approached Susan K. Bennett, MD, of Cardiology Associates and clinical director of the GW Women's Heart Program, to determine what would appropriately honor BJ, and highlight the issue of heart disease in women. The painting, "BJ's Red Dress" became the obvious choice for her family because of B.J.'s love of bright colors and its tie to women's heart health awareness.



Dr. Susan Bennett and Monte Edwards, B.J.'s Brother, hang the dedication painting 'B.J.'s Red Dress' at the Women's Heart Program located at the Cardiology Associates K Street office in Washington, DC.

"B.J.'s legacy to the women and heart disease movement is to keep moving forward in the face of adversity," said Dr. Bennett. "She never lived as someone who had a significant heart problem but as a woman with great heart that lived life in all its fullness."

About the GW Women's Heart Program

The George Washington University Hospital's Women's Heart Program is for women who think they may be at risk for heart disease as well as those who have already been diagnosed with heart disease. At the Center, women can be screened for heart disease as well as receive the complete cardiac care they need. To make an appointment, call 202-715-5400.

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