

## Manning Reentry/Work Release Center Celebrates “Cancer Awareness”

Story by Harriet Boston

Manning Reentry/Work Release Center’s SCCA Chapter sponsored a “Cancer Awareness” versus their traditional “Breast Cancer Awareness” Workshop this year on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the SC DJJ Bill Rogers Community Connections Center. Warden Nena Walker-Staley wanted to celebrate the lives of all cancer survivors as well as honor those who have passed away.

The keynote speaker for the workshop was Ms. Margaret Nevill, owner/operator and resident artist of the Mad Platter. Ms. Nevill is involved in many organizations, and she is a founding board member of the Share Our Suzy “SOS”. All funds raised through Manning’s SCCA Chapter will be donated to the SOS.

The day included personal survivor stories from many to include a slideshow presentation of their journeys as they persevere through pain and daily living. Listening to the stories not only educated the audience about health and wellness, but captured hearts, brought many to tears, and built empathy because of their vulnerability. Their stories solidified the purpose of the workshop in bringing awareness to cancer and realizing the effects of the disease from a different perspective. As Warden Staley stated during her story of breast cancer survivorship, “Cancer does not mean a death sentence, but one can live through it with the hope of having a rewarding future.”

Participants were able to purchase jewelry, makeup, wreaths, gift baskets, and other items for sale from vendors throughout the day. SCDC’s very own “Katera” provided live entertainment with her gift of music and voice during lunch. Lt. Franklin Jones provided the crowd with line dancing lessons. We learned that our Regional Director, Ms. Jannita Gaston, has rhythm and is an excellent dancer!

The workshop ended with a “We Speak Your Name Circle” as everyone joined hands and surrounded all survivors. On behalf of Manning Reentry/Work Release Center’s SCCA Chapter, Warden Staley would like to thank each of you for your support and contributions. Please continue to support cancer awareness throughout the Agency and encourage those who are combatting this illness. Here are some pictures from the event:





**CANCER AWARENESS MATTERS!**