

**ATTEND THE SCREENING!**

**Christmas with the KRANKS**

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 23



Come see us on the Web at:  
[primetimenewspapers.com](http://primetimenewspapers.com)

• BRACKEN • CIBOLO • CONVERSE • GARDEN RIDGE • KIRBY • LIVE OAK  
• MARION • RANDOLPH AFB • SCHERTZ • SELMA • UNIVERSAL CITY • WINDCREST

VOL. 47, NO. 47

Serving Your Community Since 1958

Thursday, November 18, 2004

QUOTE  
OF THE  
WEEK

**"Not a day goes by that I don't get a hug from someone who's appreciative of what we're doing for them."** Page 7

**INSIDE**

Area News Briefs	3	Classified	25-39	Obituaries	14
Calendar	16, 17	Education	13, 15	Police Reports	12, 17
Chamber Notes	2	Movies	22, 23	Viewpoint	4

Herald • Prime Time Newspapers

## Fledgling agency supports women battling cancer

By Edmond Ortiz  
Staff Writer

SAN ANTONIO - Windsor Park Mall remains a silent, empty shell of its former self. But in one corner of the once-busy retail center, life is reaffirmed and hope grows. Open nearly six months, Support Lending for Emotional Well-being, a non-profit organization, is thriving.

This is a wellness center for women who are battling, or recovering from, cancer - especially women with burdensome financial situations. SLEW is the brainchild of San Antonio resident and agency executive director Olga Young, a two-year survivor of breast cancer.

"Going through my treatments at the time, I had good insurance as I was working in corporate America," Young recalls. "But as I talked with other women battling cancer, I found many of them couldn't afford the long-term treatments, therapy and other resources they need to recover."

Young also found that cancer-related support resources and services are "fragmented," spread across the San Antonio area. The idea behind SLEW is to centralize such services such as counseling on emotional support, benefits and nutrition; physical therapy; pain management; early detection; and grooming services.

"There was a need to pull everything together in one place. There was a need about this for women, uninsured, underinsured, low income or no income," Young adds.

The wellness center, located in a donated space near the old



Submitted Photo

Massage therapist John Braxton gives patient Lupe Carnes a paraffin wax treatment.

Montgomery Ward's store, is open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays. A small but willing group of licensed and certified professionals staff the center to provide these services.

"I'm not a massage therapist, social worker or specialist. We went out and asked for volunteer help. These highly trained professionals stepped up to the plate and donated their time," Young says.

Meanwhile, private donors financially back SLEW while area businesses donated furniture, office equipment and many other vital resources to allow the center to function adequately.

The furnishings, soothing sounds and warm colors create a relaxed, inviting environment that does not seem as antiseptic as patients would expect. There is one day out of every month when patients can gather with

each, exchange insights and share experiences.

"We wanted to go for a spa-like atmosphere where everybody feels at home and can draw on each other for support," Young adds.

Fifty women from across the area, of diverse backgrounds, are currently enrolled. Most referrals come through the Cancer Therapy and Research Center, the American Cancer Society,

See **CANCER SUPPORTS** Page 11

### Cancer supports

From Page 7

University Hospital and private doctor's office.

Qualified applicants must show proof of income, diagnoses and residency, as well as family member documentation for nursing services. Walk-ins are welcome and van transportation service is available by appointment.

"The response from patients is

tremendous. Not a day goes by that I don't get a hug from someone who's appreciative of what we're doing for them," Young says.

Young says she feels her battle with breast cancer "led her to this place," and to launch the SLEW wellness center.

For more information about the Support Lending for Emotional Well-being Wellness Center for Women with Cancer, call 654-7900 or visit [www.slewiinc.org](http://www.slewiinc.org).