

# Beauty Beyond Beauty Salon Brings Comfort to Patients



*Debra Palmer (center) hugs Brianne Morrison of Radiology and Bob Middleton of Plant Operations in appreciation for granting her Christmas wish. Debra recently made a donation to the McLeod Foundation to help provide supplies for the Beauty Beyond Beauty Salon.*

**D**ebra and Dewey Palmer were traveling through Florence on a cool December day when a logging truck suddenly ran a stop sign and crashed into their car.

The Palmers were transported to the McLeod Trauma Center. Debra's injuries were much more serious than Dewey's, requiring multiple intensive surgeries to repair her numerous fractures and lacerations.

While Debra recovered in the McLeod Trauma Surgical Care Unit, Dewey was recovering on another floor in the hospital. Dewey met McLeod employee Bob Middleton of Plant Operations during his recuperation. They struck up a conversation after Bob delivered an item to Dewey's room. Dewey asked Bob if he would not mind occasionally going by and checking on Debra for him.

A few days later, on Christmas Day, Bob did just that. While engaging Debra in conversation, Bob asked Debra, if she could have anything for Christmas, what would it be? At that moment, what Debra wanted more than anything else was to have her hair washed.

Due to the severity of Debra's injuries, she was not able to shower, but longed for the uplifting sensations that hair washing can provide.



*The Beauty Beyond Beauty Salon features a shampoo bowl and reclining shampoo chair that allows family members, staff and volunteers to wash and style a patient's hair.*

Once Debra was transferred to a regular patient room, Bob enlisted the help of a co-worker, McLeod Radiology Technician Brianne Morrison, who is a former hair stylist, to grant Debra's wish. Brianne washed Debra's hair while she laid in her hospital bed using bowls of water and lots of towels.

In emergency cases like Debra's, as well as planned surgeries and hospital stays, the simplest act of washing one's hair or taking a shower may become beyond the patient's capabilities.

Being acutely aware of situations like Debra's, the McLeod Orthopedic Surgery and Neurosurgery Recovery staff approached the McLeod Foundation with an idea to provide patients with experiences similar to Debra's the opportunity to rest better and feel refreshed – enjoying the therapeutic benefits of having their hair washed while being pampered. The "Beauty Beyond Beauty Salon" was created from this concept.

**This new service supports the mission of McLeod Health to restore the health and well being of the whole person – body, mind and spirit.**

The Beauty Beyond Beauty Salon opened at the beginning of the new year. The new "salon," located on the eleventh floor of the McLeod Pavilion, consists of a shampoo bowl and reclining shampoo chair that allows family members, staff, and volunteers to wash and style a patient's hair. Additionally, being able to wash a loved one's hair also allows family members to take part in the patient's healing.

Many patients in the hospital cannot shower or are bed-bound due to limitations regarding their medical condition or recovery. The traditional method of hair washing for these types of patients is "waterless cleaning" with a dry shampoo which absorbs oils and dirt. However, now these patients can feel better about their appearance by receiving the gift of a wash and styling.

Patients who may also enjoy this service include those with long hospital stays, patients who may go on to a rehabilitation center after being discharged from the hospital, and others who are unexpectedly admitted to the hospital.

Remembering the difference having her hair washed made in her own recovery, when Debra learned that the McLeod Foundation was making this service available to all patients, she made a donation to help provide the supplies needed for the salon.

This new service supports the mission of McLeod Health to restore the health and well being of the whole person – body, mind, and spirit. The Beauty Beyond Beauty Salon is available to any patient at McLeod Regional Medical Center who wishes to utilize the service.



*The McLeod Orthopedic Surgery and Neurosurgery Recovery Staff proudly cut the ribbon to the new Beauty Beyond Beauty Salon located on the eleventh floor of the McLeod Pavilion.*