



SMITH CENTER FOR HEALING AND THE ARTS

community. creativity. cancer support

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Smith Center Navigator Recognized as a White House “Champion of Change”

Thelma Jones, one of [Smith Center for Healing and the Arts](#)’ Breast Care Community Navigators, has been named a White House ***Champion of Change*** for her leadership in the fight against breast cancer. The Champions of Change program, which is part of President Obama’s *Winning the Future* Initiative, recognizes local leaders for their contributions to the community each week at the White House.

Jones is a four-year breast cancer survivor, advocate, and certified Breast Health Educator for the American Cancer Society. Her specific area of focus includes women of color in the Southwest DC area and the community-at-large, where she established a breast cancer support group and navigates approximately 18-20 patients on a regular basis. As an Integrative Cancer Care Navigator, she aims to save lives and enhance the experience of living with cancer for the women she works with—providing moral support, arranging mammography appointments, connecting patients with medical treatment and community resources, and sharing information on supportive therapies such as nutrition, stress reduction and exercise, empowering women and reducing the fear that often accompanies the disease. Her work with Smith Center is supported through a grant from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

“Almost from the inception of my diagnosis,” Jones described “I vowed to fight back and use my voice to increase funding for cancer research and to make it a national priority.”

In her previous role as Community Outreach Coordinator for the World Bank IMF Breast Cancer Support Group in 2009, Jones organized a high-level breast cancer seminar where her message of early detection, prevention, and treatment reached hundreds of people both locally and globally. In August 2010, she received the Mayor’s coveted Community Service Award in the category of Lifetime Achievement.

About Smith Center for Healing and the Arts

Founded in 1996, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in the heart of Washington, DC. Smith Center offers a variety of educational and creative resources and programs to enhance health and wholeness, with a special focus on serving those affected by cancer. Programs focus on cultivating each person’s innate ability

to heal, helping participants explore meaning and maintain hope—even in the face of life’s greatest challenges. Now in its 15th year of service, Smith Center (formerly known as Smith Farm Center) has expanded its program offerings to serve more than 10,000 people each year in the D.C. community through weeklong Cancer Retreats, classes and workshops, community outreach events, Hospital-Based Artist-In-Residence programs, Integrative Patient Navigation Services. Smith Center also operates the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, a space dedicated to showcasing art that serves to educate, enlighten, empower, and cultivate healing.

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