

TO MEDIA:

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**CANCER PATIENT PLANTS HOPE, SPREADS JOY
WITH LANDSCAPING PROJECT AT ARNOLD PALMER PAVILION**

LATROBE, PA, June 22, 2012 ... The hours Debbie White spent in a chemo chair gave her lots of time to ponder the view. At the conclusion of her latest round of treatment at the Arnold Palmer Pavilion, a UPMC Cancer Center and joint venture with Excelsa Health, she had a plan to improve the vista for others.

A plant lover, White observed the once pristine landscape just outside the cancer center just needed a loving touch to restore its original beauty. The same "earth angels" who cared for White during radiation and chemotherapy to treat her stomach cancer could also revive the garden area, itself a contributor to the healing process.

White discussed her ideas with cancer center staff and Facilities Management at Excelsa Latrobe Hospital, who maintains the grounds at Mountain View Medical Park, and a project took root. June 8 and 9, volunteer weeders and seeders drawn from White's family and cancer center staff refreshed the area, removing shrubs and plants that were past their prime and replacing them with perennials transplanted from White's own garden in Champion in honor of staff and patients. Donations also came from Donegal florist Linda Glotfelty in memory of her father, Vernon Brown, as well as White's sister, Becky Shipley, in memory of her mother-in-law, Sylvia Shipley. Truckloads of fresh mulch from Brian Butz Masonry provided the finishing touch to the grounds, and the benches will soon have a fresh coat of paint thanks to the Latrobe Hospital maintenance crew.

“When you’re sick, you want to surround yourself with things that bring you joy and help you maintain hope,” said White, whose daughter, Erin, is a technical partner at Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital. “Plants do that for me. I could spend hours in the garden or shopping for flowers. I want to share that gift with others.”