

## **Peihong Dong Endris teaches Chinese Traditional Brush Painting to the cancer patients**

Patients & families feel relaxed and forgot their worries temporarily during art class, and everyone was proud of their own works

Peihong was invited by Collage, the organization who provides the art treatment to cancer patients, to give a Chinese traditional brush painting lesson to the patients and their family members.

Recommended by a friend, Peihong teaches the Chinese Brush Painting at the Cancer Center once a month starting from Feb, 2008. But the class is taking at different locations each time, sometimes at M D Main building, sometimes at Wellness Center at Mays, sometime at Camp Allen in Navasota.

On Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, Peihong brought a pot of Poinsettias to the class, and taught the students how to draw the petals and the stems. It was their first time to hold the Chinese brush for all the students who attended the class on that day. Peihong taught them how to do the draft and how to do the coloring, and then back the work up in the very simple western style. Therefore, every student got their first Chinese Work.

Students were chattering with each other about their personal life, and were curious about the meaning of the Chinese Stamps "Pure Heart". Peihong explained the meaning in Chinese, and Corinne who had several kinds of cancer said: "My only wish is to be alive."

Corinne did a good job on her Chinese painting. She can not speak very clearly, and very often she has to stop several times in a sentence because of the ten-year torture of the diseases. She said she enjoyed the class because she felt so relaxed during the class and even temporarily forgot all the troubles bothering her

Kanta is an Indian. She loved painting when she studied in England a long time ago. After she got married, she had no time to pursue her arts. Her younger brother got cancer this year. She has to send him here for treatment everyday, and felt very depressed sometimes.

She said it was such a relief to attend the art class, "This poinsettia is my first art work in the last 13 years, I am proud of myself."

Peihong said that all the students here in Cancer Center are so different from normal students in her class. Cancer patients and their family members are pursuing a very simplified life, and it makes her feel more responsibilities in teaching.

She expressed the idea that giving lessons to the patients is trying to ask them focusing on the arts and practice not be affected by their illness temporarily, and forget some of their pain and suffer in daily life.

Some patients are kids. They can not play like the normal kid in their age. The most joyful moment is the encouragement from their parents after they finish their paintings.

Peihong's husband, Bob Endris is the member of Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. He has been volunteer for more than 30 years. One of the students told Peihong that some of her medical bills were paid by this society, and she appreciated so much that organization.

Peihong was so impressed that she felt it is so important to get the true meaning of lives in front of the cancer patients, and money becomes so unimportant.

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