

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT: *pitman*

MAY 2016  
complimentary

# gloucester LIVING

county

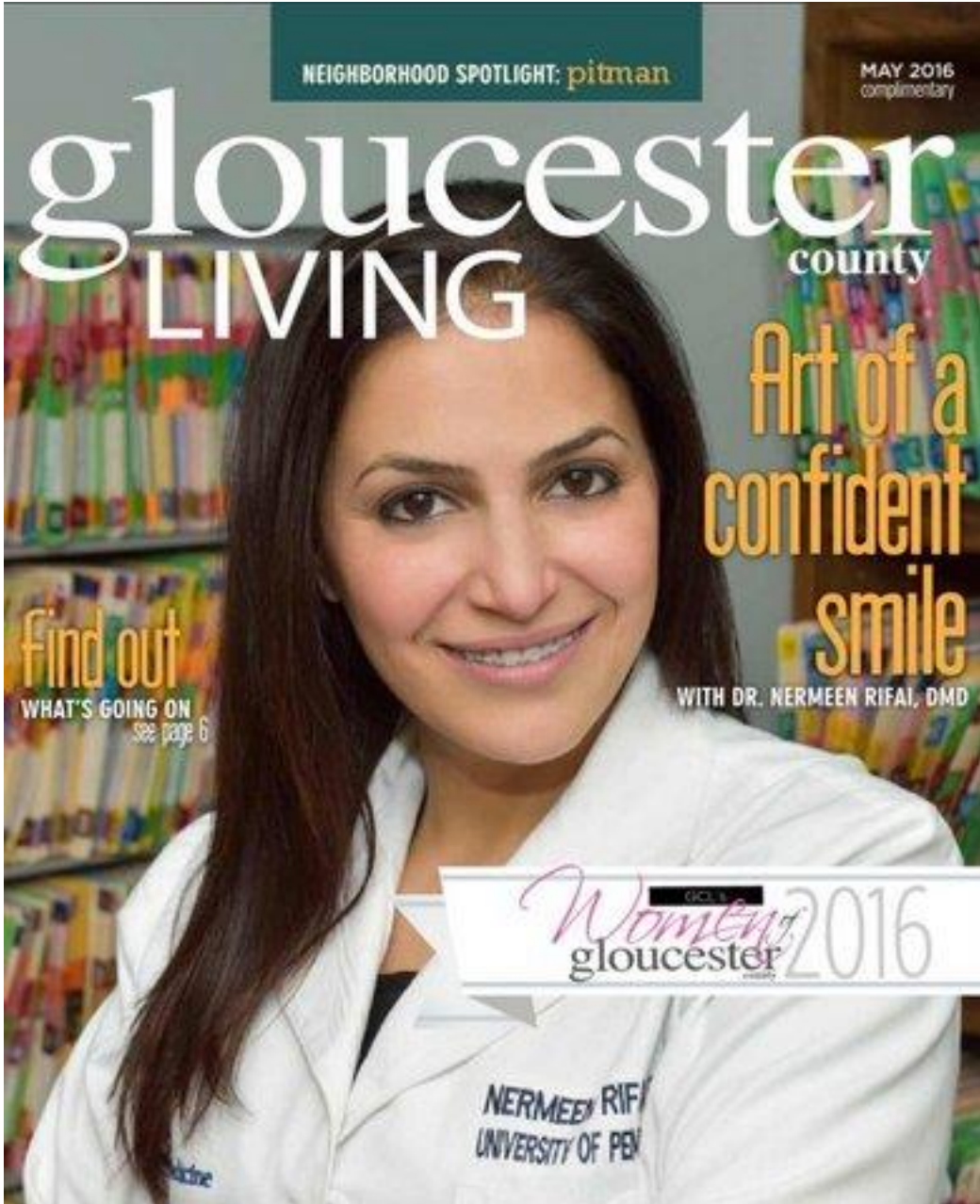
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find out  
WHAT'S GOING ON  
see page 6

WITH DR. NERMEEN RIFAI, DMD

WOMEN  
gloucester 2016

NERMEEN RIFAI  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



Passion  
Leadership  
Caring  
Community pride  
Always willing  
to help others



There are so many of these standout leaders around Gloucester County deserving of placement on a special list, too many to feature in one issue of GCL. But in this first annual special Women of Gloucester County edition, we are recognizing 10 ladies who have made tremendous impacts in their respective communities. For some, the journey has included leaping over personal life hurdles that may have caused a temporary setback, but in the end, paved the path to a greater calling – one in which involved helping others in need.

# GCL's Women of gloucester county 2016

By Bill Gelman

These are just a handful of words that can be used to describe a very special group of women residing or working in Gloucester County. It's not about being the center of attention or the recipient of a standing ovation. The reward for their hard work usually comes in the form of smiling faces or a "thank you."

To learn more about these inspiring women, continue reading the profiles that follow.

*Coming in September:  
Men of Gloucester County.  
E-mail nominations to:  
bgelman@bsmphilly.com.*



# Beth Elwood

GLASSBORO

Sometimes one personal experience, whether it's good or bad, is all it takes to inspire an amazing idea in which the primary mission is to assist others in need. Glassboro resident Beth Elwood used the ups and downs of her personal journey with cancer as the inspiration to create a nonprofit called Hearts United Against Cancer.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 at the age of 33," Elwood said. "My treatment took a little over a year and consisted of numerous surgeries and chemotherapy treatments."

"I am very fortunate in that I have an amazing circle of family and friends that rallied around my husband, young children (ages 6 and 3 at the time), and helped us in a variety of ways during that difficult year."

The meaningful gifts that she received served as the jumping off point for the nonprofit's mission, which is to deliver comfort and support to Cancer Heroes — any man, woman or child who is bat-

ting cancer — through the organization's Care & Comfort Bundle program.

"An average of 320 Bundles are delivered monthly to Cancer Heroes at 18 hospitals and treatment centers in our local tri-state area. Thirty bundles are also shipped to two pediatric hospitals along the East Coast on a monthly basis," Elwood said.

"Personalized Bundles are delivered or shipped to individual Cancer Heroes, based on request. We average 20 personalized requests being delivered or shipped to Cancer Heroes every month."

Elwood said her mother-in-law's fight with breast cancer a few years after her own brought home how helpless one feels when a loved one is going through treatment.

"The dream in my heart was to find a way to bring cheer and joy to cancer patients; to let them know that people care and to show them they're not alone," she said.

Sure enough, in June 2014, Hearts United



ed Against Cancer was born, and in less than two years, the organization has delivered or shipped more than 5,000 Bundles to Cancer Heroes across 31 states. Her husband, who has been her best friend for 24 years and a "rock star" during the treatment and surgeries, also performs an active role, serving as vice president, website coordinator and a member of the fundraising and marketing Committee.

"When I told him of my idea for H.U.A.C. he fully supported my dream and has

given many hours of his time to turn that dream into the growing non-profit it is today," Elwood said.

Volunteers can also help by participating in a variety of events that take place throughout the year, including a Care & Comfort Bundle event that is taking place on June 11 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. (St. Charles Borromeo Church in Sicklerville).

Anyone interested in volunteering can e-mail [contact@heartsunitedagainstcancer.org](mailto:contact@heartsunitedagainstcancer.org) or call 856-981-0960.