

# STYLISTS WITH HEARTS

Beauty professionals taking part in HIV/AIDS fundraiser

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

AIDS awareness never looked so good.

AIDS Care Service is gearing up for one of its most popular fundraising events of the year. The local nonprofit, launched AIDS Hair Service last fall. Stylists hailing from seven different salons took part in the 2007 event, donating the proceeds from a day's worth of hair styling to ACS, which offers resources and programs to local people living with HIV/AIDS.

"We felt it would really appeal to all ages; everybody gets their hair cut," ACS President Christine Jolly said of the fundraiser. "This is the kind of event where everyone can get involved."

Patrons who visit participating salons for the Sept. 14 event are encouraged to pay the off duty stylists more than they typically were charged (a donation of \$25 is suggested), as a sign of support for the program. More than 20 local stylists from a dozen salons have signed on for the '08 fundraiser, nearly doubling participation levels from its inaugural year.

"I think it's sort of fresh and new in the community," Jolly remarked. "We have very diverse salons too, and that was the intent of the program from the start."

The first Hair Service event was beneficial for stylists as well as ACS, Jolly added.

"A lot of them had an opportunity to really build their clientele because they took walk-ins," she revealed. "And anytime that we get our name out there, it builds awareness."

Shirley Bradley will be participating in the AIDS Hair Service event for the first time this year. Bradley first learned of the program from ACS Community Relations Director Amy Lindsey, her client at West End Hair Studio.

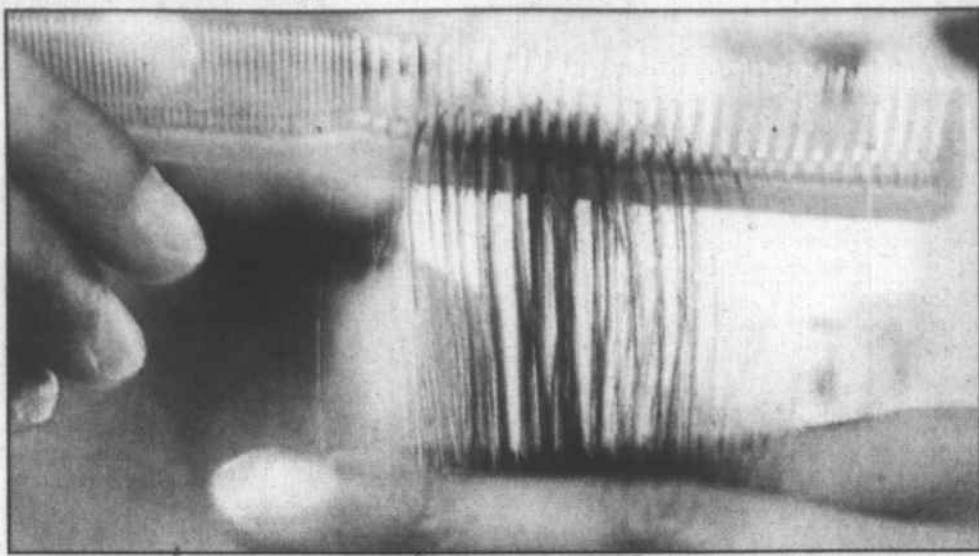
"I just thought it was a really good thing," said Bradley, who has been a stylist for nearly 40 years. "To me, it was a no brainer... I love what I do and if I can do something to help somebody else in the process, that's wonderful."

Though she only has a few appointments scheduled, Bradley says she's hopeful that walk-ins will fill out the remainder of her day so she can raise as much money as possible for ACS.

"Out of all these years I've worked, I think it's time to do something to give back," she related. "I hope to stay busy the whole time."

Golden Shears Cosmetologist Greg Felts was also excited to participate in this year's AIDS Hair Service event.

"I had always wanted to help out with something in the community as far as AIDS is concerned," said Felts, who added that he had lost a dear friend to the disease nearly a decade ago. "I



hope we'll be real successful with it."

Felts says he's encouraging his AHS clients to donate the considerable amounts (\$40 for a women's haircut) they are accustomed to spending, in Golden Shears.

"I would like to raise four or five hundred dollars," he remarked. "I would donate all of it."

Felts learned of the project from his partner, Jim Steele, a former member of the now-defunct AIDS Task



Greg Felts

Force and a community advisor for this year's campaign.

"It was such an important thing to be involved in," Steele said. "It's

always exciting to do something that's different and fun and it's quick and easy... It allows the average person to make a small contribution to a very important cause."

The 2008 AIDS Hair Service event will be held Sunday, Sept. 14 from 1-6 p.m. To become an AHS stylist or for a list of participating salons, visit [www.aidscareservice.org](http://www.aidscareservice.org) or contact Lindsey, at 777-0116 ext. 104 or [alindsey@aidscare.org](mailto:alindsey@aidscare.org).

# Blackstock is new chair of cancer department at Baptist

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center announced last week that Dr. A. William Blackstock Jr., has been named chair of hospital's radiation oncology wing.

The appointment of Blackstock, a professor of radiation oncology, became effective Aug. 31. He replaces Dr. Edward G. Shaw, who had been chair since 1995. Shaw stepped down to pursue a master's degree in counseling.

Blackstock was recently named one of the nation's top African-American doctors by Black Enterprise magazine. He earned his medical degree from East Carolina School of Medicine and completed his residency and fellowship at University of North Carolina Hospitals. He told The Chronicle in May that he is one of a very few doctors who have fellowships under their belts.

"If there's anything in my story that makes me a little bit different, it's the fellowship; most folks don't go back and do fellowships after residency," he said. "For me, the

research I was able to get done in those three years really was the launching pad for things that happened to me subsequently, because I actually had some experience, some expertise that not many people had."

Blackstock has been on the faculty of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center since 1996. He is an accomplished clinical trial investigator in lung and gastrointestinal cancers who has been the principal or co-principal investigator for 10 national and international research studies.

Blackstock says that as an African-American doctor and researcher, he brings a different perspective to a field that has a very limited number of blacks. He recalled making a key observation that had been overlooked by his peers while working on a large scale lung cancer trial.

"I asked 'How did the African American patients do?' I'm always curious ... and the response was, 'Well I don't know,'" he related during the recent interview. "We went back ... and we looked to see how African American patients did, and as it turns out, African American patients had lower survival."



Dr. Blackstock

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