



Eddie Bines (foreground) lead the Big Four Choir.

Concert

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advocate, working in the community to educate other women about the disease.

"I'm a four-year patient survivor," she told the audience. "I'm still taking chemo, and I'm still standing, praise the Lord."

Although she is fortunate enough to have the means and the insurance to cover the staggering cost of her treatments, Cuthrell said she has met many women who aren't as lucky. She founded Team Pink Gems - which amassed 65 members for its first Race for the Cure last spring - as a means of helping those women.

"Our community needs to be represented because breast cancer doesn't only happen to other people," she remarked. "It's here in our community, too."

The community's havenots were also the motivation for Dean-Arnette when she started her toy giveaway program 12 years ago. Each holiday season, she encourages her listeners to write to her if they need help to make Christmas merrier for



Tammie Cuthrell (left) and Anita Dean-Arnette are pretty in pink for the event.

their children.

"We try to help every family that sends in a request. Last year, we blessed 40 families," she said. "Some of these families have eight or nine members, but we never turn anybody away."

Luckily, Dean-Arnette's fans and supporters have responded to the demand by donating items.

"It's almost like a Toys R Us in (the radio station). I wish you could see it because God truly blesses us," she declared. "It's a whole lot of work,

but it's worth it."

One of the most touching moments of the concert event occurred when Cuthrell's niece, Deonna Lindsay, joined her aunt at the microphone to read an essay she penned.

"In 2009, my Aunt Tammie was diagnosed with breast cancer. She faces daily challenges and struggles, making it through tough times. My Aunt Tammie had to deal with lots of sickness ... (but) she kept a positive attitude, and didn't give up," Deonna read. "I'm proud of my Aunt Tammie for overcoming her problems. Aunt Tammie is a great role model for me and my



Wilma Davis

cousins. She taught us no matter how big the problem is, always keep a positive attitude. I believe that she can achieve anything, as long as she keeps the faith."

Other Team Pink Gems members were on hand to support the cause. Member Wilma Davis, a 14-year breast cancer survivor, said that though battling the disease was a harrowing experience, in many ways it was also a blessing in disguise.

"It was the best thing that could've ever happened to me, really, because you don't waste a minute on things that aren't really worthy," Davis said. "You just enjoy every single moment."

Support your favorite team and the homeless through sock drive

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The 21st Annual David Lash/Chronicle Holiday Junior Varsity Basketball Tournament has a new community outreach component.

Tournament-goers are being encouraged to take part in a sock drive sponsored by Hanesbrands, Inc., one of the tournament's partners.

During the tournament, which kicks off today with a play-in game and will conclude with Dec. 22's championship, bins designated for each participating school will be placed in the Carver High School gymnasium. Fans should drop their packages of socks into the bin of their favorite school. The school that collects the greatest number of socks receives a \$500 prize as well as a doughnut party, courtesy of Hanesbrands. All the donated socks will go to local shelters so that they can be distributed to local homeless men, women and children.



For the past two decades, the Lash tourney has spotlighted the county's best JV players.

For a full tournament schedule, see the story on page B10 of this week's Chronicle or go to www.wschronicle.com.

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