

# ‘True satisfaction comes from giving and helping others.’

Peter DeBona made a promise. “Let me live, and I’ll give back as much as I can, for as long as I can,” says the Branford resident of his April 1994 pact with God after being diagnosed with a glioblastoma multiforme — the fastest-growing, deadliest type of brain cancer. Doctors said the odds were that DeBona’d survive no more than six months. That was 10 years ago. “By the time I had surgery and 36 weeks of chemotherapy, I had already out-lived predictions,” says DeBona, 61, who took part in several Looking

Forward support groups. “Why did I live? I don’t know.

But I quickly realized this: material things don’t bring you happiness — they only make you want more

things. What really matters is giving hope and support to others.” With this mindset, DeBona retired

from his job and now spends his days helping fellow Saint Raphael cancer patients, as well as

others in need. “When I worked, I was satisfied with making money. But now I know that

life is really so much more, and my life is truly fulfilled. When my cancer comes back,

and it’s my time to die, I’ll be ready to go. I’m already so far ahead of

where I should have been.”



*Celebrating 10 years  
of hope and healing.*

Brain cancer patient Peter DeBona of Branford. Afraid he would lose his hair during treatment, he shaved his head eight years ago and has kept it this way.



**Hospital of  
Saint Raphael**

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