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## Brotherly Love: Cancer Patient Helps Others



PHILADELPHIA (CBS 3) — A follow-up to our very first Brotherly Love report on cancer patient Roxanne Ward. On July 7, Roxanne lost her battle with cancer and died with her loved ones at her side. But in typical Roxanne fashion, she was thinking of others at the end of her life.

Reporting  
Dave  
Huddleston

Roxanne Ward was always out there helping others. We first met her last December while she waged war with ovarian cancer.

While she fought the disease, she and her husband Art also had to fight to keep creditors at bay. Much of their money went to medical bills.

"Her husband has two jobs," said Margie Page, Roxanne's friend. "She's working full time. They both have health care. They're paying their bills, and then she gets hit with cancer."

Earlier this year, Roxanne was hit with something no one saw coming: Art unexpectedly died. Doctors also told her there was nothing else they could do to stop the cancer from spreading.

Don Spadaccino is Roxanne's son. "She used to joke around and tell everyone that he [Art] had gone up there a month early to get things ready for her," said Spadaccino.

He says after Art's death, Roxanne, knowing she is going to die, decides to donate thousands to help others.

"In my mother's mind, what she would want more than anything is the prevention and to help detect ovarian cancer at an earlier stage," he said.

Her son says, she also threw a party for all those who helped her.

She was then ready to go. Roxanne Ward died July 7.

"I was just so happy that I was there at the end, holding her hand when she took her last breath, and it meant a lot to me and a lot to her," said Don. Roxanne's family would like to thank those who saw our first story on her and made contributions. Anything that was left after her death was sent to the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance and Crossing The Finish Line

Crossing the Finish Line's mission:

"Helping families and their loved ones confront cancer hardships together through respite travel experiences which strengthen the healing force of their bonds and create immeasurable joy amidst devastating crisis."

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◀ 1 of 1 ▶

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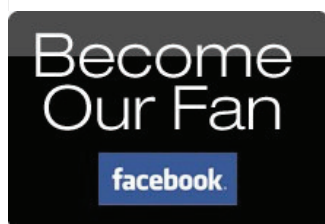
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