Pink Heals pampers 6 female cancer patients

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DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — A group of women sported freshly painted nails, pink attire and new bling as they enjoyed a free lunch Friday at the Los Reyes restaurant in Vacaville.

The women were smiling ear to ear after a day of pampering and first-class treatment.

Outside, firefighters from around Solano County waited to chauffeur the women back to Fairfield on their private pink bus.

Each of the women sitting at that table deserved a day of pampering for different reasons. All of them, however, were chosen to receive it because they are cancer patients at the NorthBay Cancer Center.

Six women from the center were chosen from a drawing to take part in a day of manicures, pedicures, free lunch and a luxury ride sponsored by the Pink Heals national tour.

NorthBay Medical Center teamed up with supporting the women who are dealing with their disease. Several firefighters, including Vacaville Fire Chief Frank Drayton and Suisun City Fire Chief Mike O'Brien, joined the six women during their activities Friday. O'Brien is currently the president of the new Pink Heals Solano Chapter.

"We're celebrating these women, not their disease," O'Brien said.

Sandra Bolden, one of the participants, said she was surprised to hear she won, but was excited she did.

All six women are currently receiving cancer treatment at the NorthBay Cancer Center. The women, both young and old, have dealt with cancer most of their lives. For most of them, cancer runs in the family.

Bolden's mother died from cancer, which she said she was never fully gotten over. Cheechov recalled how a male family member died from cancer at a young age.

"He never got to live like he should have," she said.

Quintero said as the women lingered over their last bites of food, their day of pampering came closer to an end. Quintero popped up out of her seat as if to leave, but then turned around to the table and said, "Don't worry, I wouldn't leave without saying goodbye to my new friends."

Pink Heals festivities continue Saturday at the "Think Pink" event in front of NorthBay Medical Center, 1200 B. Gale Wilson Blvd. It begins at 10 a.m. with a special announcement.

"This is the first year," Bolden said. "We're very, very happy."