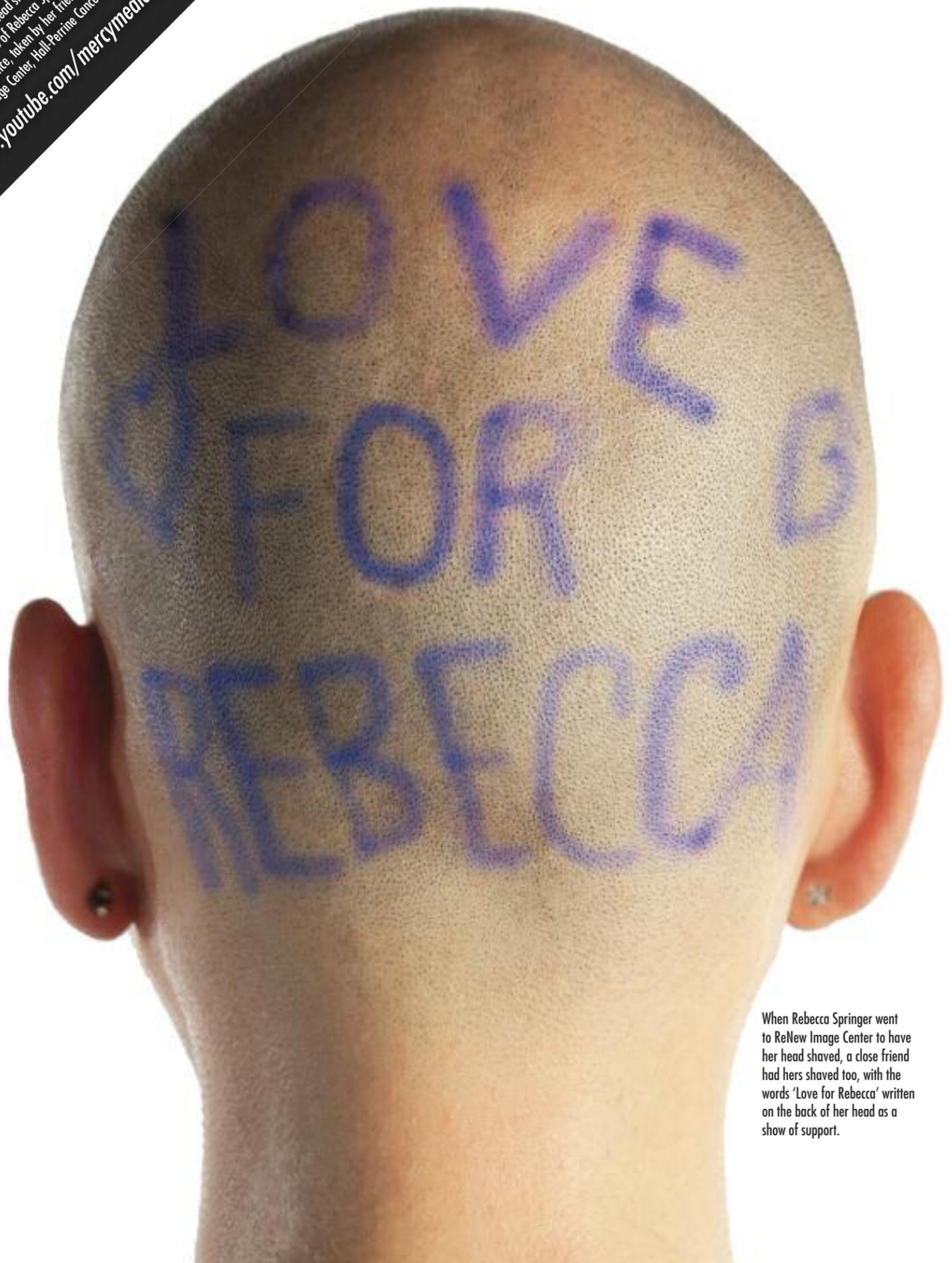


Wonder what it's like to have your head shaved? Watch a video of Rebecca Springer's experience, taken by her friend, at www.youtube.com/mercymedicalcr, at ReNew Image Center, Hall-Perrine Cancer Center.



When Rebecca Springer went to ReNew Image Center to have her head shaved, a close friend had hers shaved too, with the words 'Love for Rebecca' written on the back of her head as a show of support.

A CUT ABOVE THE REST

When Rebecca Springer learned her treatment for Stage 4 uterine cancer would eventually cause her hair to fall out, she decided to take matters into her own hands.

At the American Cancer Society, Rebecca heard about the imaging services for cancer patients at the ReNew Image Center at Mercy's Hall-Perrine Cancer Center. Knowing she would need their services in the future, she stopped by to check it out.

"They were so nice at the shop. They could sense I was having a hard time and even gave me a hug," she remembers. An image consultant also thought to take a "before" photo as a reference point for when it came time to select a wig.

After her third chemotherapy treatment, Rebecca's hair began falling out in clumps. "There is trauma and emotion that comes with leaving trails of hair," she says, adding she was surprised by how her head itched.

She knew it was time to go back to ReNew, where she had her hair shaved very short. "A friend went with me for support," she says. "They buzzed her hair, too. She even wrote 'Love for Rebecca' in Magic Marker on the back of her head."

The cosmetologist who assisted Rebecca that day was Kate Burns, who also works at Salon & Spa in Coralville. Kate is passionate about helping people facing health challenges. She says, "When they're going through this battle they feel yucky. But, the first thing others surrounding them notice is their appearance – that's what I'm there

for. It's an emotional battle for not just the client, but for me as well."

Rebecca's next step was selecting a wig. "I ordered a wig just like my hair. I felt more like myself – it even had the same highlights and everything," Rebecca says she is one of the lucky ones since her health insurance covered the cost of the wig.

"I was relieved there was a place just for me," Rebecca says about ReNew. "I had looked at wigs, but didn't know where to start. Their knowledge is so helpful." She says they also taught her how to use head scarves as another option.

It's not all about looks, Rebecca adds. "I tried to look better because when I looked better, I felt better."

Kate concurs, saying, "My goal is that they look good and feel even better when they leave my chair. I can honestly say at the end of my day that I have truly helped someone."

Hall-Perrine Cancer Center focuses on providing patient-centered and integrated cancer care that includes prevention, detection, treatment, rehabilitation, support groups, research, community education and survivorship programs. ReNew Image Center helps patients feel more like themselves by offering amenities such as head shaving, wig selection and fitting, scarves, massage and lymphedema services.

(Renew Image Center was gifted by Donna Oldorf and the Chris and Suzy DeWolf family.)