

Lydia Dody

Her Legacy: Hope Lives! The Lydia Dody Breast Cancer Support Center

Since 2002, the Hope Lives! The Lydia Dody Breast Cancer Support Center has provided post diagnostic services and support to thousands of women in northern Colorado. 400 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in Weld and Larimer Counties each year. According to Lydia, “We want to provide free post diagnosis services to all women in northern Colorado. We are committed to continuing our important work with the supportive help of our professional providers, generous donors, committed board members, staff and volunteers.”

Lydia started the center after her own battle with breast cancer in 2001. Her experience was greatly improved by reaching out to complementary care providers and after recovering, she was moved to create a center to coordinate and facilitate that kind of care.

Lydia’s mission is to support and strengthen those affected by breast cancer by providing care, guidance and education. According to the Hope Lives website, “We serve as a partner as they heal in mind, body, and spirit.”

Hope Lives is not Lydia’s only venture, though it is one of her more recent ones. Lydia has opened retail fashion and gift stores in Fort Collins and Greeley. In 1984 she founded a magazine originally called *Lydia’s Style*. Now known as *NOCO Style* or just *Style* magazine, Lydia remains as an account executive even after selling the publication to Mountain Media LLC in 2017. Lydia has two daughters—Meredith and Ali..

“It’s very, very important that [women] are aware of their bodies. You need to pay attention. It’s a serious diagnosis,” said Lydia Dody, who founded Hope Lives! after surviving her own battle with breast cancer. “And we’re there to support you ... to provide you comfort to know that this is a sisterhood and the sisterhood supports other women going through it.”

Written by Melissa Allbrandt, Archivist, Editor, and Writer