

PICKIN' ON CANCER

PREVIEW: StringsforaCure

Long, winding road to Paul

By Dave Richards
Staff writer

Elisa Guida has a big Mac attack planned: She's heading to Nashville later this month to see Paul McCartney in concert. She's also on a Mac mission. She hopes McCartney will donate used bass strings to StringsforaCure, the organization she started to help cancer patients directly through gift cards, comfort baskets, books and medical grants.

Guida, a jeweler, creates pendants, rings, earrings and bracelets from donated strings from famous musicians and local ones. So far, Jon Bon Jovi, Willie Nelson, Bret Michaels, Chris Daughtry, Wynona Judd, Willie Nelson and more have helped



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Jewelry Elisa Guida made out of guitar strings donated by Melissa Etheridge, left, and Todd Rundgren will be sold at Pickin' on Cancer.

out. At Saturday's Pickin' on Cancer benefit, she'll debut new jewelry made from donated strings from Melissa Etheridge, Lyle Lovett and Todd Rundgren. Also, a Willie Nelson pendant will go to one lucky ticket holder at Saturday's party.

Guida grew up a huge fan of music and the Beatles in particular. She started La Petite Jewelers in 1976. After twice battling breast cancer, she had the light-bulb idea of combining her passions to directly help others fighting cancer.

research and decided I wanted my own charity. I wanted to help women directly."

StringsforaCure gives gas cards, gift cards, comfort baskets and other items to cancer patients, and it also awards medical grants. Guida is thrilled so many musicians have taken up her cause; in fact she's obtained strings from two of her dream "gets" — Chris Daughtry and Jon Bon Jovi.

No. 1 on her dream list is McCartney. She heads to

SEE IT

StringsforaCure's Pickin' on Cancer event is Saturday at Brew-erie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. For ticket and show information, see the story on Silverlight on page 9. For more on StringsforaCure, visit www.stringsforacure.org.

Nashville with hope that she can work it out.

"It's in the works," Guida said. "I really can't talk about it, because we're making progress. That's all I can say."

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Erie, PA 16503
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