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Thomasville's Only

LOCAL

APRIL 3 - 16

Shop Flourish, Leave Encouraged

FLOURISH: SAY THE NAME OVER AND OVER - ESPECIALLY IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS UNDERGOING CANCER TREATMENT, BECAUSE THIS STORE CHANGES EVERYTHING - FOR THE BETTER. THIS MAY NOT BE THE FIRST ARTICLE WRITTEN ABOUT THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW STORE, BUT HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE THE MOST PASSIONATE.

Partners Gerriann Kennedy and Missy Taylor created the perfect space for those who need encouragement. Inspired by Gerriann, a cancer survivor, Flourish fills a much-needed void for cancer support and products in the area. This void causes great stress and frustration during an already difficult time. Before Flourish, most patients undergoing treatment in Thomasville headed to Tallahassee for wigs, prosthetics or functional clothing and even then, needed items were hard to find.

"We are not a home health care store," Gerriann explains. "Everything has a purpose, the gifts are for family and friends to know what to do to help those in treatment. I remember a lady sent me a gift of pound cake while I was going through chemo, and there was no way I could eat it. I wanted a store with items that made sense."

Flourish has wigs, prosthetics, scarves, soft button-down shirts and pajamas, mastectomy and nursing bras, natural creams and make up, products for radiation and eczema, aluminum-free deodorants and even fun, child friendly jewelry - Flourish is packed with sensible items and as Missy made clear, "We only sell items we can also afford."

Many of the items, originally intended for cancer treat-

ment also are perfect for nursing mothers because they button or hook in the front, are durable and comfortable. Flourish also has intimate private fitting rooms when making difficult, emotional selections.

Classes are also available for cancer and breastfeeding support. If you have a friend who needs a small kindness, Flourish's Sunshine Box is a fun way to show you care. Gerriann and Missy will make up a custom box to meet your price point and ship it anywhere in the U.S. These are important. The greatest encouragement I received during my year of treatment was the cards and small gifts urging me to keep going, to never give up.

Missy, Gerriann and I spent a long time talking about the void we encountered during our treatment and tears welled up in our eyes with gratitude that the void was now filled. Hugs seemed appropriate when it was time to leave - although, it won't surprise me to find most people will have a hard time walking out the door.

Flourish is also a beautiful, welcoming environment and really does make you feel good. Flourish: 14004 US Highway 19 S, Suite 112; [229] 236-5111.

- Didi H.