

SENIOR FEATURE

Woman loves getting into elderly's hair

By Elizabeth Johnson
Catholic News Service

CROWN POINT, Ind. — Bobbi Greco is doing her part to make the world a more beautiful place for the people she calls "the hidden treasures of our country" — the elderly.

Greco, a hairdresser, has established a specialty in hair care for shut-ins, whether they are in hospitals, nursing homes or in their own homes.

"Older people are grateful that you are going to come into their home and make them beautiful," said Greco, owner of Bobbi's House of Beauty in Crown Point. "They are so often forgotten or neglected, but it is very important for them to have their dignity."

She said she builds a bond of respect and trust with her clients so that they

feel safe when she comes to visit.

"For some seniors, getting their hair done is their only touch with the rest of the world," said Greco. "They need to know that someone cares for them, so I take the time to be a good listener. I've learned a lot of patience."

As a hairdresser for 30 years, Greco began her special service to the elderly when regular customers at the beauty shop where she worked wanted to continue to have their hair done when they were in the hospital.

"I would go and do it for them, and they seemed so happy," she said. She also had customers who lived at the Lutheran Home in Crown Point, where she sang at Masses once a month.

One of her regular customers is Frances Schweitzer, the mother of her pastor, Father Jerry Schweitzer. They got

to know one another when Mrs. Schweitzer was hospitalized and Greco fixed her hair for her in the hospital.

After Mrs. Schweitzer returned to her home in Hammond, Greco continued to drive to her home to take care of her hair.

"She's a good beautician and a very pleasant person," said Mrs. Schweitzer, who uses a wheelchair. "It's a great service, and I can depend on her. She comes whenever I call her. You don't find many people like Bobbi. She's special."

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR When a pet dies what can I do for my child?

A child may be quite upset when a pet dies. One way you can help is to plan a ceremony with the child for saying goodbye. A pet funeral gives the child a feeling of being in control and allows him to express some feelings about the loss. Finding a box to place the pet in, digging a grave, and holding a ceremony also satisfies a child's natural curiosity about the physical aspects of death. When a pet dies a child may continue to be sad for several days then, as a rule, they turn their attention to other matters. Listen to your child when he expresses his feelings and be available to answer any questions your child might have.

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