

# Town&Country

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## MASSACHUSETTS

### Gardens of Hope

After losing a friend who was only fifty-five to stage IV breast cancer, PR executive Roberta Dehman Hershon founded Hope in Bloom in 2007. “We were inseparable for nearly fifty years,” says Hershon. “Just ten months after her diagnosis, she was gone.” Her Dedham, Massachusetts-based nonprofit works with a team of nearly 800 volunteers—eighty landscape architects and designers among them—to plant lavish, low-maintenance gardens for Bay State residents undergoing breast-cancer treatment. To date, seventy-seven gardens have been planted, free of charge. As it turns out, beautiful surroundings do make a difference. “Being able to sit or work in my garden—smelling the flowers and feeling the breeze on my face—gave me a boost no drug can match,” says Susan Farmer, a stage IV survivor. [hopeinbloom.org](http://hopeinbloom.org).

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Volunteers do some therapeutic digging.