



## you can make a difference. really.

You don't have to be a doctor, scientist or millionaire to make the life of a breast cancer patient better and brighter by Andrea Atkins



### **FLOWER POWER**

**Susan Farmer, 49**, was battling Stage IV breast cancer three years ago when a crew of volunteers arrived at her home in Jamaica Plain,

Massachusetts, to plant a magnificent garden of colorful flowers and shrubs and a bench in the middle of it all. "I sit on that bench to unwind, and it's a world away from hospitals, the stark walls of medical centers and treatments," says Susan. She's now in remission, a fact that has surprised her and her doctors. "I'm not saying the garden is what did it, but a garden is a healing place." That's what Roberta Dehman Hershon, 58, thought when she created Hope in Bloom ([hopeinblbom.org](http://hopeinblbom.org)), a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization that has planted 70 gardens (including Susan's) and counting. Roberta founded the group as a tribute to her best friend Bev Eisenberg, who died of breast cancer at age 55 in 2005. "When Bev was sick, I always brought her fresh flowers and made sure her garden looked good, and I could see how much of a difference it made for her," says Roberta. "My goal is to bring smiles, joy and a sense of renewing life. I want to send a message: There is hope."