

EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR

Hair with Heart:

Marsha Scott's Gift to Children in Need

By Marsha Scott Hair Loss Clinic for Women | Photo by Kristan Sveda

Marsha Scott's Above the Rest Hair Loss Clinic for Women is the go-to clinic in the region for women of all ages who want to look and feel their best despite their challenges with hair loss. But what many may not know is that Marsha has also been quietly giving back to an incredibly meaningful cause for more than two decades.

For the past 20 years, Marsha and her team have donated their time and talent through the non-profit organization Children With Hair Loss to support children who are experiencing hair loss. Founded in 2000 by Regina Villemure, a former cosmetology instructor, hairstylist and hair replacement specialist, Children With Hair Loss provides custom hair systems to children free of charge. Marsha connected with Regina through the American Hair Loss Council and has been deeply involved ever since.

With the program now operating digitally, it is easier than ever for Marsha to match with children in need and for donors to contribute hair. "We custom design a hair system for the client," explains Marsha, who is matched with children in the region through childrenwithhairloss.org.

Marsha understands the emotional impact of hair loss firsthand. Diagnosed with juvenile diabetes as a child, she knows personally how difficult it is to be a young girl and to struggle with hair loss. "Until you are afflicted with the issue, you don't understand the emotion and the challenges behind it," says Marsha. "Hair gives you confidence and renews your self-esteem."

With more than 30 years of professional experience, Marsha is a leader in the field of hair replacement. She serves on the Board of Directors of the American Hair Loss Council and is a



past president of the organization. She is also a facilitator for the American Cancer Society's "Look Good, Feel Better" program, consulting with surgeons, dermatologists and oncologists to help women regain confidence after chemotherapy or medical hair loss. Thanks to advances in technology, modern hair replacement systems are nothing like the wigs of the past. "These are a custom-designed medical cranial prosthesis measured to fit perfectly in the color and style they want," says Marsha. Through Children With Hair Loss each recipient receives a full kit that includes the hair system, accessories like scarves and bows, and one new system each year until they turn 21. "These hair systems are so advanced, nobody would ever know," she says.

Marsha's studio also serves as an official site for those who want to give back. Donated hair must be at least eight inches long. "I think more people need to know about this program," Marsha says. "It is available to any child with hair loss, and it truly changes lives. These kids feel confident. They feel beautiful. And sometimes, that is everything."



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