I have had anybody to talk to, to cry to, or scream with, I probably would have had a breakdown,” says Cathy Landavazo of her breast cancer ordeal. Help came from the College of Education’s Comadre a Comadre Program, funded in 2006-2007 by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the McCune Charitable Foundation.

Founded in 2002, the program provides support, information and resources on breast health and breast cancer to Hispanic/Latina women by pairing newly diagnosed women with cancer survivors who share their culture. The resulting friendships help navigate cancer treatment, overcoming barriers that contribute to poor health outcomes, like transportation problems, language obstacles and confusing hospital systems.

Landavazo says Hispanic women tend not to discuss their problems, not wanting to worry anyone. “Even if you feel terrible, you say ‘I’m OK.’ I got beyond that because of the Comadre program. As women come into the program, they want to know what you went through.”

Read more at www.unm.edu/foundation/comadre.

Connecting Hispanic Breast Cancer Survivors to Health Education
College of Education’s Comadre a Comadre Program Helps Mend Lives

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