

Lindquist received rolls of candy bar wrappers, and then made them into a ball gown. The breast cancer survivor that Komen chose to model Lindquist's delicious candy wrapper creation in the fashion show was Stephanie La Rue. La Rue was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 30. She had shown lumps to her doctor, who was unconcerned because she didn't fit the breast cancer profile. By the time La Rue was diagnosed, her cancer was at stage four and she was given a year to live.

"At that time, I was designing the candy bar wrapper dress, so I had to call Stephanie to see if she had both breasts, a boob check if you will," Lindquist said. "Then I met Stephanie and she's a very uplifting person, such fun. She just has this love of life."

According to Lindquist, La Rue took things into her own hands. "Stephanie went vegetarian and organic. She went to an acupuncturist and mixed a lot of naturopathic treatments with the chemo. Then she had the lumpectomy and came out of it," Lindquist said. "Now, it's five years."

These days, La Rue does spokesperson work for early breast cancer detection and awareness. La Rue also models Lindquist's breast cancer awareness designs in Komen fashion shows as well as others. Lindquist's recent addition to her breast cancer awareness collection is a cashmere scarf embellished with a pink silk ribbon. Brought together by breast cancer, these women, now friends, work to get the message of early detection out to all women. Deborah Lindquist and Stephanie La Rue epitomize the beauty of women helping other women with breast cancer.

Los Angeles born and based eco-designer Claudia Endler is one of the most critically acclaimed

jewelry designers in America, as well as a highly conscious business-woman. All Claudia Endler Designs are produced sustainably in LA.

"We've been working with the same contractors for years," Endler said. "Only those that provide safe working conditions and fair wages."

Endler uses certified recycled silver, gold and platinum while re-purposing client's own stones and metal as often as possible. According to Endler, her business provides value, contributes to the local economy, creates less stress on the environment and leaves a smaller carbon footprint.

"In my early thirties, I had to make some tough decisions about my career, my relationships and myself. It came with a lot of change," Endler said. "Jewelry is a way to discover, acknowledge, express and reveal the self, no matter what is going on around you. Plus, I'd been interested in supporting breast cancer research and education for a long time," Endler said.

It started when a friend, in her early thirties, was diagnosed with cancer. Then another friend, also under 40, had breast cancer. Endler became involved on two levels; as a woman and friend.

"It really touched a nerve. For me, it's such an important physical attribute and symbol of a female," Endler said. "Yet women are not tested for breast cancer with mammograms until after 40."

Endler designed the Center Point collection for breast cancer awareness as well as for breast cancer survivors. The Center Point collection is regal, dominating space through simplicity. Working with the Young Survivors Coalition, an organization focused on women under 40 which offers advocacy and awareness, Endler uses her jewelry designs to support and recognize these young survivors and all women.

"To inspire people to believe in the possibilities and their own inner strength. The intention is never to forget your inner spirit," Endler said. "It's a light that shines. There is no measure to what that light can do."

Claudia Endler's Center Point designs show how that light can shine.

"Having lost her mother to breast cancer, she made the career choice to do something for women who battle breast cancer. That really inspired me."

Deborah Lindquist



Claudia Endler Design's chunky necklace
PHOTO CREDIT: Caesar Lima



Deborah Lindquist's pink 'think product' candy wrapper ball gown



Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child
in Deborah Lindquist



Claudia Endler Aquapendant
PHOTO CREDIT: Caesar Lima