

# Company's pink harness supports the fight against breast cancer

By JUDITH O. ETZEL Contributing writer 6 hrs ago



Stefan Marcella, of FrenchCreek Fall Safety, straps on a safety harness with pink coloring for breast cancer awareness at UPMC Northwest on Thursday. (By Richard Sayer)

A Franklin manufacturer has added a touch of color to its line of industrial safety equipment as a way to promote finding "the cure for breast cancer."

FrenchCreek Fall Safety, a family-run company founded in 1992 in Franklin, showed off its pink-hued safety harnesses, each carrying the pink ribbon emblem and "Find the Cure" letter, at the UPMC Northwest Cancer Center on Thursday.

The visit was courtesy of the Northwest Hospital Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds and awareness for UPMC Northwest in Cranberry Township.

"They toured our center, talked to a lot of people and kept asking how they could help," said Theresa Edder, executive director of the foundation.

Listed as the FrenchCreek Fall Safety Breast Cancer Awareness Harness, the full-scale harness is just one of numerous products designed and made by the local company. Its list of equipment ranges from fall protection vests and harnesses to lanyards and anchors.

The business is located in the former PNC Call Center facility at 100 N. 13th St.

Proceeds from the sale of the pink-lined safety harnesses will benefit the UPMC Northwest Cancer Center, part of the Hillman Cancer Center network at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. The proceeds will be used to support breast cancer research.

In addition, FrenchCreek Fall Safety added another financial incentive during the visit with Edder and Katherine Canter, manager of the UPMC Northwest Cancer Center, on Thursday.

"The FrenchCreek team also donated \$1,000 to help with transportation to and from appointments," said Edder. "And they want to do it annually."

Edder said chemotherapy appointments can involve "frequent visits" to the hospital, which can be a financial burden.

"Their generosity ... will help many patients receiving cancer treatments (and) ... allow them to focus on just getting well again," she said.