

## Barbara's Legacy

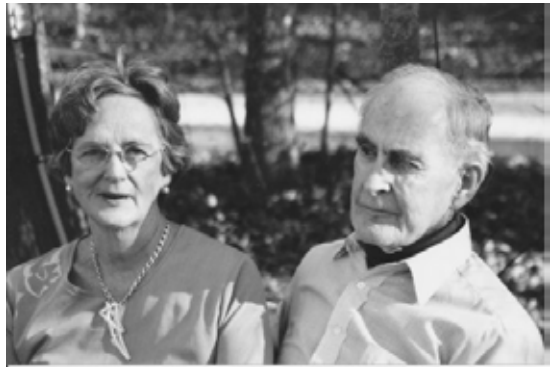
As Smith Center enters its 20th year on July 1st, we find ourselves reflecting on this milestone and the incredible vision that Barbara Smith Coleman worked so hard to create.

As you may know, Barbara formed her vision for Smith Center after having a profound experience during her beloved brother Neill's cancer treatment. In the late 1980s, she traveled with Neill to attend an integrative residential healing retreat at the Bristol Cancer Center in England. Barbara meant to drop her brother off, but in a fortunate turn of events, ended up staying to attend as a caregiver. In her journal, she recorded what happened during this life-altering experience:

*"The week unwound: meditation, relaxation sessions and group work, both for those with cancer alone, then with their caregivers...I had a great deal to learn about healing touch! Day by day we all grew in understanding of each other, and a strong bond developed among us. By week's end we had a little party, [and one young woman] said, "You see, I thought I had to be beautiful, or smart, or funny, but now I know I just have to be, to be loved."*

*"The "ah hah!" Her revelation gave me the command that my future was going to evolve around making this knowledge, via these methods, available in my own country."*

In 1996, Barbara Smith Coleman co-founded Smith Center with Michael Lerner and Shanti Norris to offer weeklong cancer retreats that address the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical effects of cancer. Early programs included retreats to 'reclaim the heart and soul of medicine' for physicians and sessions with artists to bring the healing power of the arts to local residents.



Barbara Smith Coleman and Web Coleman



Original Smith Farm Center Retreat Staff

Today, Smith Center continues to imagine a world where everyone has access to support and resources to find relief from suffering, heal, and return to wholeness. We offer programs in three areas, which reflect Barbara's original vision:

**Health** – Offering integrative healing programs for people with cancer, caregivers and the community.

**Education** – Creating learning communities to strengthen capacity and increase dialogue and communication between providers and patients.

**Art** – Creating opportunities for people to explore their innate creativity and advancing the understanding of the arts as tools for healing.

As Smith Center celebrates our 20th year, we hope you will join us in continuing this journey together.

Shanti Norris, Co-founder & Executive Director



## Giving Back

Please help us continue to provide programs and resources in the community at little to no cost for those who need them. Visit [smithcenter.org/give](http://smithcenter.org/give) to make a secure online donation and learn about matching gifts from your company, monthly giving, leaving a gift in your will, or making a gift to honor a loved one.

Smith Center is a member of the Combined Federal Campaign #90535 and United Way #8348.



■ Programs (82%)  
■ Development (13%)  
■ Management & general (4%)

Visit [www.smithcenter.org/calendar](http://www.smithcenter.org/calendar) or call 202.483.8600 to register.