Great hair makes you feel like a million bucks. We couldn’t think of five women who deserve that feeling more. They’re pushing through heartache, hardship, or illness to start a new chapter in their lives—and New York salon owner Nunzio Saviano is sending them off in style.
When I heard I was going to lose my hair, it was unbelievably upsetting to me. I didn’t want to look sick for my own mental wellness and my kids’. Having hair dignified my struggle.

Casey Benjamin

FIVE YEARS AFTER beating cervical cancer, Casey had a recurrence, in 2013—an isolated tumor in her lung, which was removed and followed by six rounds of chemotherapy. “The thought of losing my hair threw me,” says Casey. She underwent cold-cap therapy, which has been shown to help about 70 percent of patients minimize hair loss during chemo. “Two hours before and four hours after my already four-hour-long chemo, frozen caps were placed on my head,” she says. Now cancer-free, this New Yorker is doing things her way. She quit her job, divorced her husband, and started a jewelry website (goodjuju supply.com), where people can purchase meaningful pieces for loved ones going through hardships.

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NEW CHAPTER, NEW HAIR

To give Casey fuller-looking hair, Saviano cut her wispy layers into one blunt length. He darkened her highlighted hair to match her natural rich brown and added one strip of clip-in human hair extensions to help blend her new growth with the rest of her hair. A volumizer and a smooth blow-out with a round brush gave Casey’s roots lift.

AFTER KIM and her husband of 34 years sent their last kid to college, they were excited to enjoy some time for themselves at home, in Washington, D.C. Then, Mark, a successful CPA, unexpectedly lost his job. That was when Kim first noticed that things were off. “I thought he was depressed, but when he started getting lost, I knew something else was wrong,” says Kim. At age 54, Mark was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s. “I said, ‘OK, we can do this,’” From reminding him to brush his teeth to becoming a runner so she can run with him, Kim manages it all. But, she admits, “sometimes when I’m in the shower, I lose it. Then I quit feeling sorry for myself and go on.”

“You need to do something for yourself every day—and you need to laugh. We need to laugh, or else we’d go insane.”

Kim Parr

NEW CHAPTER, NEW HAIR

Saviano wanted Kim’s hair to reflect her spunky personality, so he modernized her shoulder-length cut by raising the length and cutting long, side-swept bangs to soften her face. To mask the grays and further her skin tone, he added in a mix of highlights and lowlights. The result: a natural, ashy blond with lots of dimension. A straight blow-dry looks polished and is easy to do at home.