

## My Breast Cancer Story

In August of 2012 I was drying off after getting out of the shower when my hand slipped and hit a small knot on my right breast. At first I thought it just might be a cyst because I had found one a few months earlier in my left breast. After a couple of weeks I decided it might be best to have it checked out just to make sure. I scheduled an appointment with my midwife. She checked me and said she thought it was a couple of cysts but that she would send me to have an ultrasound and mammogram just to make sure.

My appointment was made for the next week and the doctor there said that what showed up didn't look normal so he had the nurse schedule me to see a surgeon. I went to the surgeon on August 20, 2012. After looking at the knot he said he didn't think it was cancer but to be sure he would have to do a biopsy. First I would have to see how much my insurance would cover and how much I would have to pay. My part was right at \$1,000 and I had about \$920 on my flex card so they let me pay that and I had my biopsy.

The surgeon said I would get a call with the results the next day by 3:30pm. If I didn't receive a call by then I would need to call them. The next day all I did was worry when 3:45 rolled around and I still had not received a phone call I decided to call the office. The receptionist said the nurse was in with a patient and would call me back as soon as she was done. At 5:05pm my phone rang and it was the surgeon, I knew then that something was not right. He said, "I should not be making this phone call, it did come back cancerous." My world stopped. All I could think about were my boys. I was 28 years old, the single mom of a 4 year old and a 1 year old. I thought I was going to die and leave them behind. I was scared. I was diagnosed with stage 1 invasive ductal

carcinoma. I had my first surgery on September 13, 2012, a bilateral mastectomy with reconstruction. I had a port put in on December 6, 2012. I did 15 out of 16 rounds of chemo that lasted from December 7, 2012 to May 31, 2013. I had to have a hysterectomy in July 2013. I had my actual implants placed in August 2013. I have one more surgery scheduled for December 4, 2013 to move fat cells from my stomach to around my implants. Even though I hear reconstruction can take a few surgeries I hope that was my last one.