

Melissa Blevins

In January 2012, I was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer at age 39. In just a day my life changed forever, so did the lives of everyone else that loved me. Cancer affects everyone different. I had friends and family that ran to my side and some ran away. But I survived, became stronger, and fought the battle with all I had.

In the past two years I have completed seven surgeries, thirty-three radiations, and six months of chemotherapy. I have been surrounded by my incredible friends, family, and co-workers through all the surgeries and treatments. I never took a single step in the journey by myself. I quickly realized that I had cancer, cancer did not have me. Most days I stayed positive, upbeat, and on the move. But on the dark days I questioned my beliefs, why me?

Those moments were and still today are tough. But I reminded myself that each day is a gift, not a given. Tomorrow is not promised to any of us. Cancer has opened my eyes to what's truly important. My advice after my cancer experience, don't wait until something catastrophic happens to make life-changing decisions. Live your dreams, love unconditionally, and laugh every chance you get.