

A VISION IS BORN..... POWER 4 PINK

I have always believed that everyone needs to be proactive in taking care of their health. That being said I have had a complete physical once per year. In 2005, two weeks before my annual physical I found a lump in my left breast. The only thing that stopped the immediate onset of panic was knowing that I was already scheduled to see my doctor. My doctor was finished with my physical and I said “hey, you missed something. I told him about the lump and he palpated it as well. I went for a diagnostic mammogram but nothing showed up. For two more years I was run thru the same tests and assured that all was okay.

Last November my lump in my left breast seemed to grow everyday. By December I could see the lump sticking out of my shirts and I wondered if anyone else could. I called my Doctor who referred me to a surgeon. But, it was holiday time and the surgeon was going on vacation for the holidays. The earliest appointment I could get was January 17th 2008. I took it. (what else can you do)? By the time I had the biopsy done the tumor was hard as a rock. I was awake in the OR during the biopsy. I knew after the nurse asked me at least 3 times about my family history for breast cancer what the results were. When I arrived back in the recovery room my surgeon was there waiting for me. I looked at him and I said “What’s wrong?” He said “let’s wait until Marvin gets here. I have to tell you something that I wish I didn’t have to say”.

That was the beginning of my journey with breast cancer. I must tell you that I have been blessed with wonderful doctors, the very best care, and family and friends that people only hope to have in their corner when facing uncertainty. Their love, courage, and support got me through the best and the worst of my rollercoaster ride with breast cancer.

But now that I have met the challenge of this life changing disease, I feel that I need to give back to those who may face this battle. The cost is earth shattering to say the least. I have great insurance, but waiting for approval for treatment is an interesting concept. I do not know what I would have done if my insurance company would have denied me treatment.

Lorain is so economically deprived. There are so many without adequate insurance or have none at all. I believe that those without financial resources need to have the same ability to fight this disease as I did. As I sat in the cancer center I looked at all those around me and began to envision the concept of the **Power 4 Pink**. It is my hope to first help prevent and educate about this disease and perhaps someday give as many women young, old, white, black, educated, or homeless the same fighting chance that I was so blessed to receive. I did not go through my breast cancer alone, I know that I cannot not do **Power 4 Pink** alone. I need your diverse skill and knowledge to help to make this a success. It is my hope that you will help me make this dream a reality.

Thank you,

Marcy **C**alvert
Breast **C**ancer **S**urvivor

