

Why I Walk...

Sharing My Story



If you would like to share your story, send it an email to: osaicfoundation@osaic.com

The day before Thanksgiving in 2012, I got a call from my primary physician confirming that the ultrasound I had a few days earlier showed that I had a lump in one breast that was most likely cancer, and that I needed to get a biopsy to confirm that it was, and start the process of talking to an oncologist and surgeon about the next steps. We chose not to tell family and friends until after that biopsy, partly to not ruin anyone's holiday, but also because I wanted to be able to answer the "what's next?" questions.

I refer to it as my "Shakespeare cancer" since it was identified as being stage 2B, and I opted to participate in a drug study as part of my chemo, which meant having several extra biopsies as chemo treatments occurred over the course of the first five months of 2013. Having a somewhat warped sense of humor helped a lot, as most biopsies meant a room full of student doctors, and my cracking jokes made the whole process easier for everyone.

Chemo was followed by surgery to remove the lump, (and my ovaries - since we had lost our mom to ovarian cancer about three years earlier, and despite not having the genetic markers for that, I didn't want to mess around), and surgery was followed by radiation, and ten years of taking an aromatase inhibitor to fend off a recurrence. Today I'm cancer free, and I walk (and raise money) because I believe that any cancer research helps all cancer research, and also because I have both lost people to cancer and have several friends who are breast cancer survivors. - Mindy SL.

As of this year, I am a 10 year breast cancer survivor. I just want to give back so we can combat this disease and help those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. - Theresa N.

It has truly been an honor to lead this campaign for Team Osaic and the Osaic Foundation. Over the past several years, especially through our ConnectEd events, I've had the privilege of hearing countless stories of resilience, courage, hope, and determination. I've met survivors who continue to inspire others, fighters who face each day with incredible strength, and families who have shared the love they hold for those they've lost. Their stories stay with me long after the events end. These experiences are why I walk.

There are many causes worthy of our compassion and support, and my heart goes out to everyone facing challenges, loss, or uncertainty. Breast cancer is the cause we chose to rally around together, and through that choice I've come to know so many remarkable people whose strength, vulnerability, and perseverance continue to inspire me every day.

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Every story reminds me that behind the statistics are real people, real families, and real journeys. I've witnessed incredible courage in the face of adversity and heartbreaking loss that forever changes the lives of those left behind. Those experiences reinforce why this work matters and why we continue to fight. I walk to honor those who are fighting, celebrate those who have survived, remember those we have lost, and support the research, education, and resources that bring hope for a future with fewer diagnoses and more survivors.

Most of all, I walk because no one should face breast cancer alone. Thank you for supporting Team Osaic and the Osaic Foundation as we continue this journey together. - Jennifer V

Breast Cancer is a big word in my house. Every 6 months, I trek to the imaging center and get a scan to keep an eye on things. And let me tell you, the waiting for those results is anxiety ridden every time. My mom is currently under treatment for Stage 4 Breast Cancer and we're fortunate that we're 3.5 years in and it's still keeping things mostly at level. It's been incredibly hard to watch her become more frail over time but getting chemo every 3 weeks will do that to a body. I hope the medications continue to work but I know at some point, they won't.

I walk because I need the treatments to be better and I need them to be able to cure Stage 4 Breast Cancer. I need the genetic research to be more widespread and encompassing. Really, all I need is to have my mom for longer than I will have her because Breast Cancer stinks. - Emily A

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