

Hi, my name is Flora and I am a 6 year survivor of Breast Cancer. I was diagnosed at the age of 37; Feb 18, 2002 with Invasive Intraductal Carcinoma. I had a lumpectomy, Axillary dissection, 8 rounds of chemo and 32 rounds of radiation followed by 5 years of hormone therapy. 2 weeks after my first round of chemo, I got married to the most wonderful man in the world!!

We were supposed to get married Aug 24, 2002; but after being diagnosed, my husband to be had asked me if I just wanted to get married by our mayor and then have a party when I felt up to it. He knew I would have never gotten married after having lost my hair from the chemo. So April 30, 2002 I married Jeffrey.

This was my third diagnosis of cancer. I was first diagnosed in 1990, at the age of 25 with Ovarian Cancer and then again in 1993. If it wasn't for the fact of having my family there, I don't know how I would have ever made it thru that second diagnosis. I hadn't had the chance to have any kids yet, and had to have a hysterectomy with the second diagnosis. At the time, I was a nanny to my niece Kristie. She is really what kept me going!

After being diagnosed with Breast Cancer, I didn't know what to think. Was this something that was always going to show up every few years to taunt me? I did everything my Dr's recommended and thanks to them, I am here today to tell my story.

Thru the years, I have learned to live my life as a survivor! Last year I was picked to experience the Emerald Dream in Las Vegas along with 12 other breast cancer survivors. My husband and I were swept away to Las Vegas Dec. 26, 2007 for a week of pampering and on New Year's Eve, there was a ball held in our honor. It was the Emerald Dream Ball held at the Rio and hosted by Lana and Victor Fuchs who made this all possible for the 13 lucky ladies.

In March of this year I was the survivor speaker for our Relay For Life Kickoff in Clark, NJ. This was my first time to publicly speak about my cancer journey. I was asked my Renee Sarnicki, who is a radiation nurse at Rahway Region Cancer Center, and the person responsible for forming and keeping our support group together. Since then, I have spoken at a few other events. And I also went to New York City, to be an extra in the "Stand Up To Cancer" public service announcements which were shown nationwide on TV.

Then in August, I was honored as "A Women Who Makes Magic" by our local radio station. My husband had nominated me and I was shocked when I heard the story he submitted read on the radio. There was an awards banquet held in September where all 19 women received awards and gifts bags from local sponsors. Just yesterday, October 14, 2008; I was interviewed by MAMM magazine for a future article on Aromatase Inhibitors. A little bit of me, can go a long way!!

I am always there to listen or give a shoulder to cry on to anyone who needs it. People tell me I am an inspiration to others, having been diagnosed 3 times with cancer and having such a sunny outlook on life. I always say "80% of your recovery is your attitude". You can either have the cancer with a bad attitude, or have the cancer with a good attitude. The good one is always going to win!!

Surviving cancer has shown me a whole new way to live. I don't sweat the small things anymore and I live everyday to it's fullest. I don't let anything ever stop me or have anyone ever tell me I can't do something.

Don't let cancer bring you down. Fight it with all you have and survive!!