

2012 Employee Giving Campaign

Oct. 26 - Nov. 30, 2011

Everyday Heroes



"I know first hand how important the Breast Health Center is to the patients and families they support as I too am a Breast Cancer Survivor and former patient! I donate to the Employee Giving Campaign because I know that 100% of my donation goes to support patients in need!"

Marcia Keith
Cath-Lab Clinical Manager

My Story:

My experience with breast cancer began in 1981 when my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. "At that time, cancer just wasn't discussed. My mom had a lump for a long time. By the time it was diagnosed, over 80 percent of the lymph system was involved. Her physicians didn't think her prognosis was very promising, but she didn't let the odds hold her back. She lived for 17 years without an recurrence. In 1998, unfortunately, the cancer returned and my mom passed away in 2000.

Since the age of 30, I have had regular mammograms. In 2007, I received a digital mammogram which showed suspicious groupings. This was alarming as I had had one the year before with good results, but this time the diagnosis was different. This led to several biopsies of both breasts to determine the extent of the cancer and finally a bilateral mastectomy. **My mind went blank. I ceased being a health care professional and I became a patient.**

I was only in the hospital overnight, but before, during and after surgery, one place at Jennie that became a second home was the Breast Health Center. "I was given pre- and postoperative instructions, reading materials, follow-up visits – they do it all for you. You're not lost in the system, saying, 'I don't know who to call.'" Jennie Edmundson Hospital's Breast Health Center was established to treat all breast health issues and it is also one of only four centers in Iowa to receive the National Accreditation, the only one in Southwest Iowa.

We have a lot to be proud of and I am thankful that when my diagnosis was cancer, the best treatment wasn't far away!

I am also thankful to the Jennie Edmundson Auxiliary Gift Shop for providing a \$40,000 matching grant and hope my fellow employees will join me in supporting the year-end campaign!

Every dollar counts!

