



Marcia

Gratitude Leads Marcia to Create Bosom Buddies

When Marcia Antworth was called back for additional testing after her annual mammogram in March 2010, she was stunned by the news. "I was absolutely dumbfounded and didn't know what to do," she recalls. "It was like they were talking about someone else—certainly not me!" She had never realized that she was at higher risk for breast cancer than anyone else, but later she learned that two aunts on her father's side also had dealt with the disease.

Further tests and a biopsy confirmed that Marcia had breast cancer, but she feels lucky that the diagnosis was made at a very early stage. "I have always believed in getting my annual mammogram, and now I know it was my best protection," she remarks. Ultimately, Marcia had a lumpectomy, followed by a healing period and six weeks of radiation.

Marcia is glad she chose Jennie Edmundson Breast Health Center for her treatment. "It honestly never occurred to me to go anywhere else," she says. "I knew I was in good hands with

Dr. Marshall, Dr. Galva, Dr. Bendorf, and Dr. Haessler. There was a very frustrating time before starting radiation when I ran into some complications with infections, and the worst part was realizing that I had no control. I just wanted to get to the next step, get it over with and move on. I can't say enough about how phenomenal the staff and nurses were in the Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center throughout my experience. They cared for me as if I were the only patient they had. Tammy Johnson, my nurse navigator from the Breast Health Center, was very kind and patient in answering all of my questions. She made sure I knew that I wasn't facing this alone."

In addition to the expert care provided by the Breast Health Center, Marcia relied on support and encouragement from her husband Dayl, daughter Alexis and other family members, as well as many caring friends and co-workers.

Thanks to prompt treatment and follow-up care, Marcia's cancer is now in remission. She mentions that she still tends to live in six-month increments of time between check-ups, but she

feels optimistic about the future. Marcia says, "I know that whatever may come, I can face it head on."

Wanting to give back, Marcia formed the Bosom Buddies, a group of breast cancer survivors and friends who work hard to promote public awareness of the importance of breast self-exams and yearly screening. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month, and the Bosom Buddies have planned several fundraising activities to support Jennie Edmundson's Breast Health Center. Marcia explains, "I want to do whatever I can to make sure the Breast Health Center is there for other breast cancer patients who need them in the future!" To learn more about the JEH Bosom Buddies or how you can get involved, visit the Breast Health Center page at www.jehfoundation.org.