



KICKING-CANCER CHRONICLE

EDITOR: BARON ROBISON

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT, OR ARE FIGHTING,
THE GOOD FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.

EDUCATING PEOPLE ON HOW TO LIVE AN ANTI-CANCER
LIFESTYLE BY EATING REAL FOOD AND DOING SOME MOVEMENT.

“SUPPORTING A GROWING NEED” - YOLI ORIGEL’S STORY

SUBMITTED FROM LOS ANGELES, CA

My name is Yoli Origel, the Executive Director and Founder of Cancer Kinship. I am a 12-year survivor of Stage 3 Triple Negative Invasive Ductal Carcinoma breast cancer. I have been a patient of St. Joseph’s Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment since December 2007, and most recently a patient of Hoag Hospital Presbyterian. After my diagnosis, I battled cancer with 16 weeks of dose-dense chemotherapy, a bilateral mastectomy, 7 weeks of daily radiation treatments, a latissimus dorsi flap reconstruction surgery with tissue expanders and many subsequent reconstructive surgeries. Additionally, I am a BRCA 1 breast cancer gene carrier, which was a major factor in my decision to proactively have a life-saving radical hysterectomy to decrease my heightened risk of ovarian and other gynecologic cancers.



Soon after my diagnosis, I was asked to mentor newly diagnosed breast cancer patients by my breast surgeon. As a survivor, it has and continues to be incredibly fulfilling, and an honor to serve as a mentor for patients who are just entering their personal cancer storms. The first time I heard the word “cancer” I was just 7 year’s old. I don’t recall a time during my childhood that I didn’t know the word “cancer.” My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and valiantly fought until she passed away at the age of 42 from stage 4 metastatic breast cancer that spread to her brain. Watching her fight the biggest battle of her life, while being a full-time mom to 7 children and a loving wife to my father was inspiring for me even at that early age. My mom’s primary language was Spanish, and she needed translation support that I was able to provide when I joined her at her doctor’s visits. Even as child, I understood the difficulties of having a language barrier and I felt the pressure of having to provide accurate medical information to help my mom make medical decisions.

I wish the adult version of myself, the cancer survivor, could’ve been there to provide my mom the emotional support that she undoubtedly needed. Since my mom passed away in 1986, and even since my own diagnosis in 2007, there have been significant advances in cancer treatments and surgeries and the number of cancer-related deaths are lower than ever before.

Nevertheless, my family was impacted once more when my youngest sister was diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer in 2014 that had spread to both breasts, bones, lungs, and brain. She died when I was seven years into my own cancer survival, on December 26, 2014. After she died, I experienced survivor guilt and a profound sadness that prompted a deeper examination of my own beliefs and reason for my survival. I soon realized that the level of care and support that I had provided my sister allowed her to die with dignity and upmost care. My experience as my sister’s advocate and as a patient mentor over the years has taught me a valuable lesson in the power of human connections. I truly believe in the benefits of patient-survivor mentorship relationships and individualized support programs because I’ve seen, first-hand, the difference it has made in the lives of newly diagnosed patients. Human connection can be a great healer.

With more cancer survivors alive today than ever before, there is much work to be done to support this growing population. My purpose in life and personal mission are to help patients adjust to their “new normal” lives as survivors with the development of sustainable and impactful programs and services offered by Cancer Kinship.

“FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS” (MARISSA LEIGH MEMORIAL STORY)

SUBMITTED BY BRENDA FARRIS ABOUT GOTEAMMARISSA,
FROM NEWBERG, OR

Late 2015, my husband and I were on a prospective fund-raising visit to a breast cancer . in Palm Springs CA to prepare a proposal for investors to fund his Thermography and Cryoblation machines. I was the test-subject for his Thermography machine, which is when I learned of the breast cancer that had settled in my body. We researched the option for Cryoblation- a procedure of killing cancer cells thru freezing using Liquid Nitrogen pumped into the cancerous tumor - and prayerfully considered it as an option for my situation. Even though this procedure ultimately was not a good fit for my type of tumor, the information turned out to be invaluable. Serendipitously, in her own search for information on Cryoblation, Marissa Leigh, in Newberg OR, ran across the Cryoblation articles I had posted on our Kicking-Cancer facebook page. Excited to find another like-minded friend going through breast cancer concerns at the same time as myself, she and I became fast-friends in our pursuit of health through research and taking control of our own bodies.

Each encounter I had with Marissa was filled with new knowledge we had gained and needed to share as we pursued health for our bodies with the cancer that continued to grow. With so many remedies for cancer, we were excited to learn from each other’s experiences and glean what each had learned since our last visit. Marissa was a beacon of hope, a ray of light, ever the optimist, full of life and love and compassion and willing to share all she had discovered. Meeting for the first time in-person Oct 2018, we were overjoyed to receive huge life-giving hugs and could not stop sharing stories. I love recalling the moment I could present her with a beautiful Kicking-Cancer “Quilts4Kindness” gift. Staying in frequent contact via facebook, text, and occasional phone calls, we supported each other with prayers through trials and tests, through ups and downs, through discoveries and disappointments and victories.

Our last in-person encounter was just this last Oct 2020, where I was humbled to spend a couple of hours interacting with Marissa in an Anti-Cancer Presentation I delivered while on a visit to Oregon. In addition to her beautiful countenance lighting up the room and her generous hard-earned knowledge she so freely shared, it was a delightful experience to have her sweet son, Elliott. What a gentle and kind young man with a giant spirit and loving heart. She has surely blessed the world with a huge piece of herself in the lovely legacy of his beautiful countenance. Marissa will be forever in my heart. Do not let Marissa die in vain.



“CANCER AFFECTS THE WHOLE FAMILY” (JAMES WARREN LEGACY STORY)

SUBMITTED BY DANI WARREN, HIS WIDOW, FROM PHILOMATH, OR



Why does Kicking-Cancer have LEGACY teams? I guess you would say that cancer doesn't just affect the person afflicted with it. Often, work is interrupted or even halted for the individual battling cancer. This, and increased expenses from medical bills, prescriptions, travel to hospitals and clinics, time off work, etc., can create a financial strain on the whole family. Additionally, it is also common for family members to become caregivers for their loved ones, which has all kinds of ramifications, even for the health of the caregiver.

In my situation, I lost my husband James Warren to bone cancer. I worked two jobs during the 4 1/2 years that James battled cancer in order to make ends meet. James' surgeries, hospitalizations and recovery time made it impossible for him to work consistently during those years. James lost the ability to walk for the last year of his life, so I had to leave my full-time job in the Recreational Sports Department at Oregon State University AND quit my part-time job as a Pastoral Counselor in a Christian Counseling agency in order to stay home providing 24/7 custodial care for him. We lived on a small disability payment, prayers, and the generosity of friends and family that year. When James passed, the disability was gone. There was no insurance, no bank account or nest egg to fall back on, but bills and

debts still had to be paid. Instead of grieving my loss, I was forced to throw my energy into figuring out how to survive and keep a roof over my head. My situation is not unique. Cancer affects the whole family--physically, emotionally, spiritually AND financially.

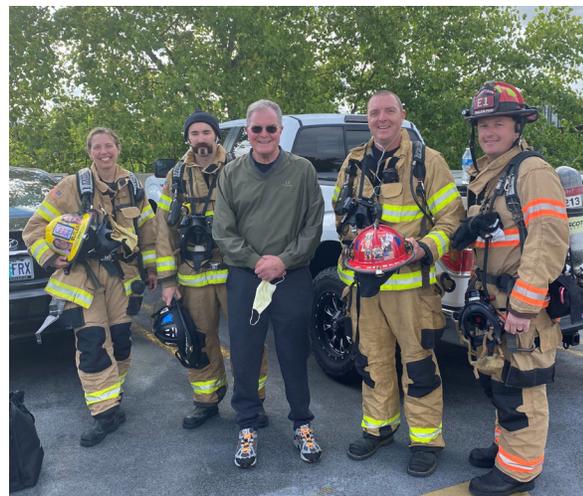
“RELENTLESS ADVOCATE FOR OTHERS” (DAVID GILBERT LEGACY STORY)

SUBMITTED BY DEREK GILBERT, HIS SON, FROM CORVALLIS, OR

My father was a man who was anchored by family and who had a passion for bettering those around him. He married my mom Yvonne after they were introduced in 1977 on the Oregon Coast while she was visiting family and he was working at the Inn at Otter Crest. He had already started his philanthropic endeavors by being active with the United Way. They married a year later and created a life together in Corvallis. Dave owned his own commercial lending business and took pride in helping his clients reach their goals.

Dave was a relentless advocate for Corvallis business and philanthropic organizations through time spent and money raised from Cornerstone & Associates, United Way, Rotary, Young Life, Community Outreach and others. In 2009 he earned the City of Corvallis' highest individual honor, the First Citizen award. What transcended these endeavors was his love of God and family. Both pulled him through when he was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2012. The desire to meet his second grandson, and the support of friends and family from all walks of life buoyed Dave into remission in 2014.

He continued to support others, traveling with son Brendon and his family to San Diego to cheer Yvonne on at the finish line of the Rock-n-Roll Marathon. He was also waiting with Yvonne on the top floor of the Scott Firefighter Stair Climb in Seattle in 2015, a grueling annual firefighter fundraiser, as his son Derek hauled full fire gear up 70 floors to raise money in the fight against lymphoma and leukemia. Family, faith, and community were the center of his world. The legacy that succeeds him is seeing those values carried on by his sons, grandsons, friends, family and the many lives that he touched!



QUARTERLY THOUGHT HEART OF KICKING-CANCER

BY BARON ROBISON

For the Kicking-Cancer organization 2020 started with a full day workshop featuring advice on how to “Kick start your year”. Kacey McCallister, the International ParaSpartan spokesman, was the keynote speaker for the first education program message. Simultaneously, we reached out to GoTeamBecky (Olson), who in her 5th battle with Breast Cancer found out it was now in her lungs. We climbed the Bank4Becky, 40 story bank climb called “Fight for Air”. Sadly, as COVID-19 hit we had to pivot, both with the education program and the support program. We shifted to a facebook live format for our seminars and the KickinCancer guy began doing joint pictures with local businesses to support them through the shut down.

By July when it looked like we could resume our programs, so we hosted another vendor workshop, and started GoTeamRebecca (Smith), a blood cancer fighter. Unfortunately, during the campaign for Rebecca her husband, Ralph, passed from a massive heart attack only to find out he also had colon cancer. In his memory Rebecca assisted getting over 50 BLUE shirts to many new states in his HONOR. In October the inspiration for this organization, Brenda Farris, joined us from Yuma AZ for LovinRun-Keizer. Finally, in December GoTeamJennifer (Beaumont) hosted a drive-by show of support as she battles lung cancer. Over 25 cars met at West Albany HS then proceeded past her house, waving and showing their support. This is the heart of Kicking-Cancer, local people supporting their friends in the fight with cancer. Thanks for your support through this very unusual year.HOPE. Hope will be the very thing that carries you through.

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