

August 30, 2011

If someone would have told me I would have Breast Cancer before I reached 45, I would have told them they were crazy. No way. I have no family history. I will be just fine.

July 1, 2010 I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer at the age of 42. Lost, confused, scared and devastated, I didn't know what to do. I am not married. I have a teenage daughter that lives with me and no family living in Evansville. I was very alone.

I found a business card at St. Mary's Breast Center that said Ribbon Chicks. I went to my first meeting. Thank God for providing what we need, when we need it. I needed family and friends and I found them all as a result of my cancer.

2010 was the worst year of my life; it was also the best year of my life. I survived. I am strong. My faith has grown. And I now have some of the most incredible women as friends / family.

Strong. Young. Survivor. The Ribbon Chicks are a group of approximately 15 women who have all been diagnosed with Breast Cancer under the age of 45. The group was formed approximately two years ago and continues to grow.

Our goal is to support one another as we continue to face the challenges that one continues to have as a breast cancer survivor. We also work together to help others. In June, we had our first Relay for Life Team. We were 32 teammates strong and 13 team members were survivors.

Together we will be participating in Race for a Cure. To date, our Race team is 38 members strong and 7 of us are young survivors.

November, the Ribbon Chicks will be volunteering at the Breast Tissue Bank in Bloomington, Indiana.

Each member of Ribbon Chicks is an inspiration to others. Her attitude and faith as she handles her own difficulties paired with her compassion for other who are facing the same challenges is unsurpassed.

We have all had different experiences throughout our own cancer stories. However, the bond that we have is unbreakable. We are a family, we are strong and we are surviving.

We are walking in Race for a Cure because we are SURVIVORS. We are walking to give others hope. We are walking to stand united against Breast Cancer. The Ribbon Chicks have fought like girls and won and will continue to help others do the same.

Beth Cummings / Ribbon Chick / Breast Cancer Survivor

The Ribbon Chicks / My hero's:

Michelle Hagan

Keri Wilkie

Amy Willis

Kim Carlisle

Janet Terrell

Theresa Nellis

Megan Danks

Misty West

Jo Ellen Wassmer

Stephanie Cain

Stephanie Retter

Tina Norris

Angee Casson

Sherry Williams