

Sandra & Rachelle

My step-sister Rachelle came into my life when she was just 2 years old. We share the same birthday, 11 years apart. I adored her and watched over her when she was little. When I was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer five years ago Rachelle then watched over me. I had been a police officer for 10 years and would be off work a year between surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation. Rachelle worked with my jurisdiction's Lions Club to put on a spaghetti dinner benefit. She added in a bake sale and used the proceeds to help me stay above water. She then began walking in every breast cancer walk she could, along with her young daughter Abigail, to raise funds for research. Rachelle, Abigail and I walked in this years walk at Comerica Park. Rachelle sent everyone a thank-you letter for their generous donations and told everyone how emotional it was for her to see the thousands of people walking; many of them for a loved won that had lost their battle with breast cancer. She expressed "how lucky she felt to be walking beside her sister as I neared my 5 year survival mark." She has just found out she is pregnant! We are so blessed to be able to share this miracle. A spa day would be a wonderful way to let her know how grateful I will always be to her and how much I love her.

Lori & Anna

Anna was only 9 years old when I was diagnosed; it was pretty hard on her. She really didn't know how to react or help. In reality, because of her young age, she really couldn't.

She is a quiet 17 year old girl who has kept a lot of her feelings inside, but she lets it show when it counts. Every year Anna and I volunteer to work and walk at the Relay for Life event. She stands by me and holds on when we do our caregiver and survivor special lap.

It is sometimes hard, on both sides, to express to a teenager how important the little things they do are. I would really love to share a day like this with her just to let her know how much I love her and appreciate her. It is something you would like to forget and yet something I never want her to forget for her own health. I pray she never has to go through what her mother did at the age of 42. Thanks for considering us.

Valerie & Florence

My mother is one of the most giving people that you will ever meet - she has always been there for me. Eleven years ago when I was diagnosed with breast cancer was no exception. I don't know which was worse, the doctor telling me I had it or me having to tell my mom. I can still remember her reaction "it should be me, not you" as tears slid down face (one of the few times I've seen her cry).

I elected to have a bilateral mastectomy and reconstructive surgery at the same time by the tram flap method (where they use your stomach tissue and muscles for reconstruction) followed by chemotherapy. My mom was there every step of the way - she would help me with the tubes when they needed draining, make sure that I was comfortable, make me laugh when I wanted to cry, make dinners for my husband, help with the house chores and most of all, never give up on me. It was never "IF" I would be cured, it was always "WHEN". I know her will, prayers and love were a huge part of my recovery. It's my eleventh year of being a cancer survivor, a survivor with a great mom.

Liz & Valerie

My mom and I share many qualities, not only do we look alike and have the same crazy sense of humor; both mom and I are breast cancer survivors.

Four years ago at the age of 36 and just 4 months after the birth of my daughter, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I made the decision to undergo a bilateral mastectomy and reconstructive surgery and had to complete 12 rounds of chemo. Thank God for my mom!! Mom was on hand to help with my three kids (4, 2, and 4 months) when I was desperately tired. She was my therapist when I needed to work through my anxiety and my personal "Gilda's Club" when I would become discouraged and needed a good laugh. She came along for my final chemo treatment passing out balloons to the medical staff and thanking them for taking good care of me. I was treated to dinner! My mom is the ultimate care taker. She supported my dad through strokes, heart attacks and cancer. She is now caring for my ailing 91 year old grandmother. She does this with heart, compassion and fortitude.. While I know she enjoys taking care of her family-I know it is draining on her-I can see it in her face. I would like nothing better (and cannot think of anyone more worthy of it!) than to treat her to a day of pure pleasure! Thanks for your consideration.

Emma & Sherry

I'm nominating my mother Emma Lee Thrower because she is a living testimony of the word survivor. She is not only a survivor but also an awesome woman that I only hope to be like some day. My mother had her right breast removed in 1992. Everything was fine we thought until 1998 when she had her stomach removed due to stomach cancer. Once again we had the green light until 2006 when she had her left breast removed. Each time she would pull through surgery like a champ, never complaining or discourage about her situation. I remember during one of her surgery some of the family members were allowed to go down on the elevator with her to the surgery room. She was on the elevator telling us who to contact to get my nephew a job. She's always thinking of others first before she thinks about herself. My mother is active in her church and volunteer at Henry Ford hospital as a receptionist. My mother Emma Lee Thrower is 78 year young and this would be a great birthday gift. (Her birthday is 10/22). She is a great inspiration to me now because I was informed that I will have to have a lump removed from my left breast 10/11/07. I won't know anything until they test it, but what every the case is I have my mother support 100%. All is well!

Elizabeth & Margaret

Although Maggie is my "baby" sister, she is also my inspiration. This woman is absolutely amazing! She constantly gives, gives, gives and does nothing for herself. She has been my main source of support not only through my cancer but also through the death of my husband. In 2002 (the first year of the Breast Cancer 3-Day) she and I walked the 60 miles to celebrate my 1 year anniversary of being free of cancer. That year and every year since, she has volunteered her time as a mentor, training captain, spokes person and warm up official for the Michigan 3-day. This year she has encouraged 4 of her seniors (one of which is legally blind) to participate in the 60 mile walk and is working hard to get them in shape and helping them earn the \$2200 (each) fee for walking in the event September 28th! She also has her own work out company, works 20 hours a week at Oakland Presbyterian Village where she sets up activities for seniors, helps her husband with his Real Estate business, is the mother of 2 and step mother of 3 and has just adopted Wrangler from Leader Dogs for the Blind (he had to retire). Plus her company "Inside Out Fitness" does several fund raisers a year for local charities. She a constant source of positive energy helping people see the best in themselves and in others. I am very proud to call her my sister, and my best friend and I believe with all my heart that Maggie deserves a day at the spa.

Tami & Pam

I was 5 months pregnant when I received the news...you have breast cancer. Not only did I have to ask the questions: Do I have a chance of surviving this? I had to ask the same for my unborn son. The answer was a resounding YES!

So I began the fight! I underwent a radical mastectomy of the left breast. The baby and I came through with flying colors. Right about this time, my sister Pam lost her job. Rather than look for a new job she accepted the financial impact to her family and insisted on putting off her job hunt so she could help me. Everyday she showed up at my house at 7:00 am. She took me to every appointment and every test. My sister took care of me and my son. The first six months of my son's life are a bit of a blur but one thing remains clear and strong in my mind...the unwavering loving support of my sister. I think a day at the spa would be well deserved!

Sandra & Carol

Carol went with me for a mammogram along with a biopsy. A large mass was found; Carol comforted me as I cried about the results. My husband wasn't aware of anything, Carol later stopped to see if I had told him.

The cancer was confirmed and Carol again was there to cheer me up with a book entitled "Apply a Little Lipstick" – what a laugh! Carol went with me to chemo and played cards to help pass the time. Carol turned wig shopping into a party. She took pictures of the head shaving; she bought me a hat to wear until the wig came in, and later gave me an album of that day.

When I had two other battles with cancer and eventually a mastectomy, I again had Carol's support and love. I knew I could call her whenever I felt afraid or filled with anxiety. She was the one who urged me to be fitted for a prosthesis. Carol has been my friend for almost 40 years. The most important thing in life aren't things, if is a true friend. I can face anything with Carol's love and support.