

WIN ABC

Women's Information Network
Against Breast Cancer

Fall 2001

Volume V, Issue III

Survivor Stories



Nancy Corti, age 40 and daughter, Stacy

Hi. I live with my three kids. Okay, two kids and one husband, but he acts like a kid most of the time. I was 36 when I was first diagnosed with breast cancer. Needless to say, I was devastated and so was my family. How can this happen to me? At that point I thought I was doomed, life was now over, and to a point I was right. Life the way I knew it was now officially over.

I knew I had to do something. I had to do more than just sit and let the doctors decide. After all, this is my life we were talking about. I started reading books, articles and published papers. I started going to classes and seminars that were available. I talked to other cancer patients. I found out that the more I knew about breast cancer the more hope I had to beat this disease.

I was thankful the way my family and friends supported me. They seemed to always have a kind word. Or even an occasional "you'll be alright". I also found that some of my friends tried very hard to avoid me. I guess my breast cancer made them feel uncomfortable. That, too, was understandable; they didn't want to see me in pain.

(continued page 2; column 1)



Justine Richard, age 41

The journey begins... the day before Thanksgiving 1999. As I sit in my surgeon's office, he explains my breast cancer and prognosis from A to Z. I was told I had stage 3A breast cancer due to the size of my mass.

Although I am very blessed, 1999 marked the most difficult time in my life. My 17-year marriage ended in divorce. My good but not perfect life was crumbling around me. I lost my husband, health, hope, home, hair, and a breast. What next?

God woke me up saying, "Justine, you have to concentrate on what you have!" I do have the support of my family, friends and coworkers who have been with me every step of the way. I could never thank them enough for what their unconditional love has meant to me. I have become informed, educated, enlightened and encouraged.

(continued page 2; column 1)

Photography courtesy of:
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***"Philanthropy is
the rent we pay for
the joy and
privilege we have
for our space on
this earth."***

-- Jerold Panas



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WIN ABC Web site Re-launch



WIN ABC recently re-launched its award-winning www.winabc.org website in October 2001. The new design is fresh and clean, has better user navigation and has newly expanded content that includes information on breast health, diagnosis, treatment, advocacy, psychosocial support, testimonials and other great features.

In addition, visitors can post messages in the forum and complete the personal profile form to receive personalized information packets.

Visitors can also make on-line donations via credit card on a secured page or a mail-in form. This is a meaningful way to remember a loved one, to pay tribute to a cancer survivor, celebrate a special occasion.



Nancy Corti—Survivor Stories

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

Through the grace of God, the companionship shown to me by my husband and kids and the endless hours spent by my sisters making me feel comfortable in my most uncomfortable moments, I am and will always be thankful.

I am proud to say that I am now a four year survivor. I have a very normal and fulfilled life. Once again I spend my time raising my family but they now must share me with my Breast Buddies. I want women to know that it is not the end. That *there is life after cancer*; in fact, life is more enjoyable. Women must know not to give up, acquire knowledge and don't be afraid to ask questions. But above all, *remember to fight the good fight!*

"You are not a statistic, you are one person and no one is or ever will be you."

Justine Richard— Survivor Stories

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

Attitude is half the battle, so I know I have to remain strong, focused and positive. I have learned that it is okay to cry or yell— *express yourself*; as well as to ask for help. Continuous prayer is essential! Music is very therapeutic (gospel and jazz for me).

At the taking of this photo I begin the next leg of my journey as I begin a Stem Cell Transplant. We are all in this together and we will make it to the finish line!

Thanks for Your Help! We did it again!!!

Washington DC— November 5, 2001-



The United States Congress approved continuation of the historic Breast Cancer Research Stamp. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), David Dreier (R-28-CA) and WIN ABC were successful once again in giving life to this stamp.

The stamp will be on sale through December 31, 2003. The first class stamp sells for 40 cents and net proceeds of the extra 6 cents fund breast cancer research.

Won't you use this stamp this holiday season and throughout the next two years? Penny-by-penny and stamp-by-stamp we will continue to *Fund the Fight to Find a Cure*.

Harbor UCLA—Class of 2001



Front Row, L to R: Mary Sepulveda, Lois Hansen, Ariella Lewis, Back Row, L to R: Antoinette Roland, Jodi Plaia, Sandi Warner, Melissa Burla, RN, and Lori Bornstein.

Congratulations to the eight new graduates of the Harbor/UCLA Medical Center and WIN ABC Breast Buddy volunteer training. These ladies will be assisting newly diagnosed patients from this medical center and their communities.

If you are interested in becoming a Breast Buddy patient mentor volunteer, please call our office at toll free 866 2WIN ABC.

Volunteers of the Quarter

The lifeblood of our organization is our volunteers. We'd like to thank the following individuals who dedicated themselves unselfishly so that we may achieve our goals.

Adam Blechman	Desiree Gaines
Robbie Blechman	Larry Gaines
Diamond Bar Rainbow Girls	Jane Fisher
Bruce & Suzanne Fisher	Mary Beth McNair
Shelly Friedman	Ken Mullen
Myra Stern	



*"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else".
Booker T. Washington*

Showtime Premiere—"What Girls Learn"



L to R: Karin Cook, Scott Bakula, Shelly Blechman and Betsy Mullen

Scott Bakula, producer and actor, joined with co-stars, Elizabeth Perkins and Alison Pill, for the motion picture premiere of *"What Girls Learn"* at Paramount Pictures in Hollywood on October 10, 2001. Showtime Networks and Paramount Network Television presented the Bakula Productions, Inc. made for television movie that premiered nationally on October 14, 2001 on Showtime.

The event was a benefit for WIN ABC. Over 550 people attended including stars from the movie, Scott Bakula, Elizabeth Perkins and Alison Pill. Also in attendance were author, Karin Cook; Stockard Channing and Allison Janney, both starring in the Emmy award-winning show *The West Wing*.

What Girls Learn was directed by Lee Rose. This true story, adapted from the book of the same title written by Karin Cook, depicts the story of two teenage girls whose mother falls in love and moves them to New York. The heart-wrenching story revolves around the girls adjusting to the new man in their lives and takes an emotional turn when their mother is diagnosed with breast cancer. The mother was played by talented Elizabeth Perkins and Scott Bakula starred as her boyfriend and husband. Co-starring were Alison Pill, Margo Martindale and Tamara Hope. It was an honor to meet and speak with Karin Cook and Scott Bakula and learn that the making of this poignant film was really a true labor of love and tribute to Karin's mother.



L to R: Lincy Castro, Allison Janney, Shelly Blechman and Renée Gaines

Other celebrities in attendance included: Paul Reiser, Charlene Tilton, Linda Hamilton, Jaclyn Smith, Allie Mills, Joanna Kerns, Diane Lane, Judith Light, Bruce Dern and Robert Loggia.

Employee Community Fund (ECF)



L to R: Irma Perez, Boeing, Renée Gaines, WIN ABC and Beverly Hoskinson, Boeing

WIN Against Breast Cancer was presented with a check for \$2,000 at a special luncheon on November 16, 2001 by the ECF of the Boeing Company. Employees contribute funds throughout the year, then nominate organizations to receive these dollars. Employee, Irma Perez nominated WIN ABC as one of the 12 charities to receive funds. Irma is a Breast Buddy Volunteer with WIN ABC and wanted to find a way to make a difference through a charitable giving program at her company.

An anonymous donor has matched fifty cents on the dollar to this gift and turned it into \$3,000!

Call your human resources department to see if you can participate in a corporate giving program. WIN ABC would be honored to be your designated charity.

Matching Funds Opportunity

Attention individuals, corporations and foundations!

WIN ABC has been awarded a challenge grant from an anonymous donor. This year, we received \$50,000 in unrestricted funds and it was matched dollar-for-dollar. That's \$100,000 received for our programs and services.

Next year we have the opportunity to raise an additional \$50,000 in matching dollars. In order to receive these funds, WIN ABC will need to raise \$100,000, as the match is 50 cents on the dollar for the year 2002.



This is a wonderful way to make your contributions *STRETCH* to help even more. To find out how you can participate and if your donation qualifies for this unique fundraising drive, please contact our office at toll free 866-2WIN ABC.

In Honor Of

Kathie Akerberg
From Ruth Merifield

Darlynn Barrie
From Barbara Schaeffer

Anne Marie Beccia
From Linda Wright
Lary & Renee Gaines

Adam Blechman
From Jane Fisher

Elberta Cotton
Juanita Cooper
Leatrice Green
Nancy Pierce
Marcia Savage
From Nancy Marcus

Renée Gaines
From Linda Wright

Cheryl Goessling
From Linda Wright
Lary & Renee Gaines

Audrey Hall
From F. Win Hall

Happy Johnson
Charlotte Kilgore
Women Reaching Women
WIN ABC
From Justine Richard

Steven Kapelov, MD
From Vickie Schiller, MD

Lynn Ellen Kinikin
Victoria Wheeler
From Olive Wheeler

Betsy Mullen
From Corinne & Gerald Epstein
Jane Fisher
Paige & Brendon Fisher
Diana & Mark Fisher

Rita Newton
From Vickie Brown-Harell

Leone Tiffany
From Linda Dalli

Patricia Sherman
From Marilyn Ellis

Lori Bailey Ward
From Chuck Ward

From our President/CEO:

Betsy Mullen



In Memory Of

- Lisa Astorga*
- From Briseida Davis
- Anna Bannana*
- From F. Win Hall
- William Guy Burke*
- From Virginia Cole
- Melina Cimirro*
- From Enrichetta Potter
- Liz Finagan*
- From Jacqueline Flaherty
- Jacqueline Goodman*
- From David Goodman
- Shoshana Greenbaum*
- From Miriam Silas
- Mary Marcoux*
- From Anne Marie Beccia
- Brenda Marshall*
- From Justine Richard
- Mary Muka*
- From Carol Vicker
- Millie North*
- From Debbie & Chuck Stein
- Ethelyn Ward*
- From Chuck Ward
- Norine Weber*
- From Maryann Dibetta
Mr. & Mrs. Sorensen

Dear Friends,

At this time of year and in light of all that has taken place in our nation, it is important to take stock and count our blessings. WIN ABC has much for which to be thankful. We have a tireless staff and Board of Directors who are committed to improving the quality of care and information for each individual diagnosed with breast cancer. We have a mighty force of over 180 specially trained Breast Buddy volunteers who are dedicated to making sure that a patient need not make this journey alone. We have real friends of the organization whose generous contributions have allowed WIN to help thousands of patients each year, for over seven years.

Now more than ever, we need your continued support. Please make sure that WIN ABC will be on your holiday donation list this year so that we can continue to do the important work of providing education and psychosocial support for those diagnosed with breast cancer, their friends, family and the community at large.

*"To give away money is an easy matter and in any man's power.
But to decide to whom to give it, and how large, and when,
and for what purpose and how, is neither in every man's power nor an easy matter."
-- Aristotle*



I wish you all well and hope that you and your family have a healthy and happy holiday season.

Betsy

4



Happy Holidays

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