

Anna's Story

My life drastically changed the day I sat in a chair wondering what that white, round looking thing was on my MRI. My gut feeling was, it is not good. And, it wasn't. In May 2005 my life changed forever. Never did I expect to hear the word CANCER, breast cancer for that matter. Not me, I am only 30 years old, I had just had my little girl 7 months ago. Once reality set in all I could think about was my kids and husband. My oldest son whom I gave birth to at the age of 16, really would be my only child that would somewhat understand what really was going on. I just had to reassure him that I would be okay. I kept telling him we are strong and we can do this. My husband kept reassuring me that I would be fine.

I met with my surgeon the same day I found out I had breast cancer. So, that in itself was information overload. My surgery date was set, but a few days later the hospital called and said they had a cancellation and wanted to know if I would like to get in sooner? There was no thinking about it, of course I would!!! All I wanted was to GET THIS THING OUT OF ME!!! Surgery went well I had a partial mastectomy, and a few weeks later got the results. The news was good, the cancer did not spread to my lymph nodes and the Stage 3 tumor was all in situ. My recovery went very well.

Let's just say, thank god, for cancelled appointments!!! After 8 rounds of chemotherapy and 6 weeks of radiation, all I could keep saying to myself, over and over, was I CAN DO THIS!!!

I did not let cancer stop me from doing everyday things. I still took my kids to hockey and to school. I kept myself busy especially with my baby girl. She just couldn't understand how one day mommy had hair and then a few weeks later she had none! She definitely liked my bald head and so did I. I got a few wigs, which were very uncomfortable, but it just wasn't me. Bald was beautiful.

I still wondered after recovering from everything, how did this happen? I had no family history of breast cancer. However, I had always had bowel issues such as bloating and severe constipation. My doctor reassured me that this was normal. One day I went online and started to research what I could do to improve my situation. I went into a health food store and purchased a product for my bloating and when I went back for more I met a woman, who changed my health forever. Little did I know, she was a Naturopathic Doctor and was just another customer in the store, the same as me. She listened to everything that I told her about my bowels and she proceeded to ask me if I have ever been diagnosed with any cancer. My eyes almost popped out of my head!! I replied YES, Breast Cancer! She began to tell me all about the bowels and how important it is they function properly. She introduced me to the Renew Life products. To this day, I still don't know who she was. I have never seen her since. All I can say is I have never been so regular in my life!!! No more bloating, no more constipation. I have never felt so great! I have so much energy to keep up with daily life now. I tell everyone about Renew Life and share my breast cancer story all the time.

I always said that I wanted to be done having kids by the time I was 30! I had my first son at the age of 16, second son at age 25, and my daughter at age 29. I turned 30 April 21, 2005. I guess there is always a reason for everything. Life wanted to prepare me for another bump in the road. But all of this has made me a much stronger woman.

Anna Tidball

Age 32

Daughter, Wife and Mother of 3