

Hi Jeff,

I want to thank you again; this is so amazing what you are doing for me.

Please let me know if you need anything else...

I was originally diagnosed in 2017 with Stage 2 Invasive Duct Carcinoma Breast Cancer. I underwent a double mastectomy, 4 rounds of chemo, port placement surgery, two reconstructive surgeries, and multiple other procedures. In February of 2018 my oncologist informed me that I was cancer free and was only required to do routine blood work every six months, while taking tamoxifen daily for 10 years. I went back to my old self caring for my 5-year-old son and spending time doing activities I loved, like working out, being the football team mom, and surrounding myself with friends and family. Life was back to normal.

In August of 2019 I started developing pain in my right shoulder and left hip. I went to physical therapy from August to December, until we realized it wasn't helping. The pain was getting more intense. I had an MRI on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and got called back into the doctor's office that same day. That day changed my life forever. I got the news that my cancer had returned, and it metastasized throughout my bones. The pain in my shoulder and hip were from the cancer and the doctor that gave me the results of my MRI said it doesn't look good for me. I was alone, the drive home was unbearable thinking I had to tell my family the awful news. The unknowns were overwhelming. At night when I couldn't sleep, I did a lot of research on doctors and clinical trials. I traveled to the Cleveland clinic, where I was told they didn't have anything for me except the standard treatment, that wasn't good enough for me. Then I found Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. They were #1 in research for Metastatic Breast Cancer, I knew I had to go there. I travelled to Boston to get the news that I did qualify for a clinical trial, and I was ecstatic. The trial had me traveling to Boston weekly for two months and then it went to every two weeks. After being in the trial for several months, I got the news that my liver wasn't doing well with the medicine. It crushed me. I worked so hard to get into this trial and now I had to go back to the standard medicine, that I knew wasn't a cure. I didn't want to treat this cancer, I wanted to cure it.

In June of 2020 I started going to Dr. Stover at The James center in Columbus Ohio. He used to work at Dana Farber and was partners with my oncologist in Boston. It was perfect, instead of flying every two weeks, I got to drive 2 hours away. I still do not qualify for a clinical trial now, but I still have hope. I am now on my 4<sup>th</sup> new treatment at The James because my cancer keeps progressing. My last set of scans showed that I was stable in all areas, except for my liver. My liver has two new tumors and the biopsy I just had shown the cancer has progressed and turned positive instead of negative. Meaning the cancer is now working against each other. Right now, I'm taking Xeloda and adding on an IV infusion Chemo. I am also going to a natural doctor where I'm spending \$2500 a month on visits and supplements to help. We are all working together to stop this cancer from taking over.

The pain I have sometimes is unbearable. I must take pain pills, which I've always been against. Sleeping is hard, I toss and turn all night because of the pain, nighttime is dreaded. But I'm not going to give up hope. I take it day by day and I'm never going to lose faith. God has big plans for me, and I know things will get better. I'm going to continue to have faith over fear and pray. I also have added to my family, I got married April 3, 2021, and I have two amazing stepsons (10 & 6) and my son, who is now 10. Christmas last year, my son had a project at school, his #1 one wish was for my cancer to be gone and he asked Santa to pray with him. I keep fighting for them.

*Nicara Wilson*