



In 2002 at the age of 51, during a routine mammogram, I received the news every woman fears. I had a lump in my left breast that could be cancerous. This was scary information, but I thought about my best friend who had been diagnosed 15 years earlier at the young age of 36. She was my inspiration. She never complained about her journey and was right there for me from day one, giving me words of encouragement and support.

I was determined to become well-informed and knowledgeable about treatment and recovery, a very important aspect of fighting the battle.

I met with my surgeon and together we agreed that the best course of action was to remove the tumor and proceed with treatment as necessary. A week later I underwent a partial mastectomy. Although surgery was more difficult than I expected, I felt very fortunate that my cancer was discovered early and had not spread to my lymph nodes. I remember how difficult it was waiting several days following surgery to get the results from the labs on the four lymph nodes that were removed during surgery. That phone call from my doctor that "all was clear" gave me a sense of relief that I cannot begin to describe. The only follow-up treatment recommended was six weeks of radiation, which I came through without any side effects. Soon I was able to return to the activities I love – painting, crafting, travelling and my special passion, riding.

In recent years I have volunteered for various breast cancer organizations, including Revivals Health and Wellness (founded by my hero, Elaine Brannon), Susan G. Komen of Northern Nevada, and Washoe County Social Services "Wear Pink Day." It is so amazing to see the outpouring of support from so many business and community leaders who help to raise awareness and provide valuable resources for so many women.

Thanks to the amazing support I received from my husband Bruce, all of my family and friends, and my strong faith, I have made a full recovery and celebrate each year of remission with immense gratitude.

Many Blessings, Eileen

Eileen has delivered the Welcome Address for Revivals' Annual Keeping the Faith Breast Cancer Survivors' Luncheon. She is also the Front House Manager and a Table Captain for the celebration. Eileen is an Administrative Assistant for Washoe County Services and this year she helped raise \$4,000.00 for their "Wear Pink Day".