

Pulse Financial Services 2019 3rd Quarter Sponsorship

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We are honored to share the story of PFS' Clients Alex and Lesa Neff from Cedar Rapids, IA

Every parent will agree there is no pain like watching your child endure pain. You wish you could trade places with them and take it all away but you can't. And then at some point your pain becomes awe as you watch your child exhibit unbelievable strength and grace as they fight day in and day out against one fierce adversary...cancer. We couldn't be more proud of the way our daughter battled and beat breast cancer and in her words, here is Miranda's story:

One in eight women will develop breast cancer within their lifetime. One day you could be graduating with your Master's Degree and ready to take on the world, and then a few weeks later you can be sitting in the doctor's office being told you have a very aggressive type of breast cancer, at only 25 years old.



Getting the news in January that I had Stage 3c triple negative and inflammatory breast cancer was more than just a shock, it was a complete change of life. I started chemotherapy 7 days after diagnosis, lost my hair 10 days after my first chemo, and did not fully grasp my situation until about March. Since I was so young, it was encouraged that I did genetic testing, and I tested positive for the BRCA 1 genetic mutation which causes an elevated risk for many cancers, but primarily breast and ovarian cancer.

I had four different chemo drugs between January and June, a double mastectomy in July, and started 6 weeks of daily radiation in August, all at Mercy's Hall-Perrine Cancer Center. I believe that I had the best doctors, nurses, and staff that I could have possibly had throughout this experience. Cancer is an incredibly unpleasant situation, but many great things have come out of it. My family, friends, coworkers, family friends, and even strangers pulled together to help me every step of the way. I met some amazing women going through this same experience and have formed bonds that will last forever.

Even though my tumor was self-caught, the Especially for You Race Against Breast Cancer can help pay for preventative screenings. They can help pay for the different testing after diagnosis that insurance companies may not pay for. I have met women who have taken advantage of these resources to receive the best care possible without being too overwhelmed with finances. Due to the severity of my cancer I could not have immediate reconstruction, which I was more nervous for than losing my hair. Especially for You helps pay for prosthetics which can help many women feel as comfortable as possible throughout this life changing experience.

My siblings and friends have walked the Especially for You Race Against Breast Cancer almost every year since 2007, never thinking any of us would end up here. This year I am proud to be walking on a team with the people who supported me most while wearing my survivor's scarf. "Miranda's Breast Friends" will be walking together on October 6th, starting at Mercy's Hall-Perrine Cancer Center. I invite anyone willing and able to join me and 10,000 other amazing people to raise funds and win the race against breast cancer.



Please visit www.especiallyforyourace.org for more information.

*The donation caps at \$2000/quarter

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