

Tricia Olson Story

My experience with the “C” word began when I was 20 years old, and my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer at 44. At that time there wasn’t the pink ribbon and all the awareness there is today. In fact my mother waited a year to get a follow up mammogram due to cost. My mother being a pioneer in her own right tested drugs that are now utilized as regular treatment for HER2+ patients. This was one of her greatest blessings to provide hope and new medication opportunities for others afflicted with breast cancer. Although she passed away after 18 years of fighting and 6 reoccurrences, she was able to pay it forward for the warriors that are going through their cancer journey now.

I found myself at 45 with the same diagnosis as my mother. However, my story is a little different. I had my yearly mammogram a month before I discovered a lump during a self-examine. After a biopsy it was confirmed to be cancer. Due to this early detection, I was able to catch my cancer in an early stage and begin treating it. This may not have been the story if I didn’t do my self-examine. It is so important to do all your screenings and anything else that is needed to continue to find cancer early. I now have been able to celebrate my 5-year cancer-free anniversary. This is something my mother was not able to do during her cancer journey.

My sister, my mom and me – Race for the Cure

