



2012 HONORARY BAT GIRL CONTEST

2012 Honoree Stories

Angels

Judy Watts

I was diagnosed on 8/9/10 with advanced Stage 3 breast cancer. The biggest blessing was that it wasn't Stage 4. I am a single mom who is a long-time volunteer for Little League Baseball, being the only female in our district to umpire post-season tournament games in both the Tournament of Champions as well as All Stars. I had six months of chemotherapy; a double mastectomy and lymphectomy (losing 27 lymph nodes, 14 of which were still cancerous even after chemo); and a full course of extensive radiation. I am a high school English teacher at a continuation (alternative) high school in California, and I missed one day of school during chemo and three weeks after surgery, and that was it. I felt it was important to offer my students as much continuity as possible, as well as show them and my 11-year-old son that strength is important in facing all obstacles in life. I continued umpiring (though not as much) last season because I believe that volunteerism is vitally important, especially in youth sports. I had my first MRI post-surgery in February and -- praise God! -- everything was all clear!

Astros

Kim Goodwin

My name is Kim Goodwin, and I am a breast cancer survivor and HUGE Astros fan! In July of 2009, at the age of 42, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Upon diagnosis my first thoughts were of fear, but hope and faith prevailed. I was saddened however, that I would not be making my annual Spring Training trip due to my treatment plan. I went through surgery, chemo, and radiation sporting my trusty Astros breast cancer ball cap for each visit, always thinking of my Stros even if I could not be with them. I purchased the cap a few years before to honor one of my best friends who I lost to breast cancer. Little did I know at that time I would be wearing it to hide the loss of my hair. I teach dance for a living and continued to work while undergoing treatment. We culminated the end of my treatment with our annual recital with the theme "Dancing Towards a Cure", which helped raise money for breast cancer awareness. We continue to raise money each recital selling t-shirts and I volunteer one day a week at MD Anderson Cancer Center. I want to give back to the wonderful people who helped during my journey and to share my hope and optimism with those who are still fighting the battle. I plan to attend many Astros games this year with family and friends. I hope to be alongside my father, another cancer survivor and great inspiration. That's him in my picture. It would be an amazing honor to be chosen and to become a part of the Astros' family even for a day. Go Astros!

Athletics

Stephanie Serrano-Osorio

I was diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer in August 2010 at the age of 31. As a mother of 2 young children and no family history, my world was rocked! This is a rare and aggressive form of cancer that affects younger women. After meeting with numerous doctors and specialist, I discovered I was in for the fight of my life. I had 6 rounds of chemo that started in September and ended in January 2011. A bilateral mastectomy and ovary removal surgery happened in February. During a 14 hour surgery, the physicians discovered the chemo made a minimal difference in the tumor size and I had lymph node, skin and chest wall involvement. With prayers in hand, I entered a clinical trial to save my life. I started treatment in April 2011. Two days after treatment I ran a half marathon and the next week went to opening day. I have been on this chemo regiment for a year now and my cancer is responding. During this time, I still do all the things I love. I run (more like walk...), spending time with my family and cheer on the A's. I was raised going to A's game and it is important for me to keep this tradition alive. God is blessing me with more time so I continue to fight and LIVE! It would be an honor to represent all breast cancer fighters/survivors!

Blue Jays

Vicky Yakabuski nominated by Lawrie Yakabuski

Dear MLB, I would like to nominate my wife Vicky Yakabuski as an honorary Bat Girl. Vicky is the fantastic mom of our two girls, Julia and Jenna. In September of 2008 Vicky was diagnosed with breast cancer. She decided to undergo a surgery and chemo therapy type of treatment. This was a very brave decision as it is permanently life altering. The process was, long, painful and extremely tough on our family. Through it all Vicky never lost her spirit. Our beautiful girls were always most important to Vicky and they were never allowed to believe anything but a most favourable outcome was in the cards for Vicky. And survive Vicky did and more! In 2009 Vicky was instrumental in organizing a separate Run for the Cure in York Region. She went even farther...she entered a team aptly name "Team Victorious" that was the largest fund raising team in the Region and was honored for such a feat by the society. Vicky is a champion of annual screening and has worked very hard to convince the government to make mammograms an annually covered medical expense in Ontario for all women over 40 years old. she firmly believes she is alive today by insisting on annual screenings for herself since she was in her mid 30s. Vicky would be a great choice for Honorary Bat Girl as she loves baseball and played it for many years. She is one of a kind and a true champion and survivor! Thank you for considering Vicky. Lawrie Yakabuski

Braves

Suzanne Osborn nominated by Gregory Shenton

I nominate a wonderful woman and a true friend, Suzanne Osborn. Suzanne has been battling breast cancer for five years. All the while, Suzanne's mother, Laura Jean, battled the same horrible disease. Mother and daughter both fighting breast cancer at the same time. Suzanne saw her mother lose her battle with cancer in December 2010. I have seen Suzanne continue her own battle and support those in their own battle through groups such as the church Relay for Life team and the Young Survivors Coalition. Suzanne has inspired so many of us around her to get involved in the fight against cancer. Several of us made the 20-mile bicycle ride during the 2011 Tour de Pink, Atlanta's only bicycle ride to fight cancer. Not only was Suzanne the leading fundraiser in the Tour, but Suzanne rode herself even though she was in the middle of her latest round of chemotherapy. Suzanne is truly a beacon of light in a very dark place who offers hope to so many around her. Suzanne is an avid Braves fan and can frequently be seen in Section 139, Row 17. Her mother, Laura Jean, also loved the Braves. Suzanne would be an ideal Honorary Bat Girl for the Braves--especially on Mother's Day, when she can also honor her own mother. Attached is a picture of Suzanne and me from my wedding, which she came to in Jamaica soon after she was first diagnosed.

Brewers

Terry Porter nominated by Joseph Trawitzki

We are nominating Terry to reward her for using her courageous battle against breast cancer to rally a community to fight for a cure. When she was diagnosed during the 2010 Christmas season, Terry became a symbol of strength and courage for her friends and family. Instead of letting the disease get her down, she kept a positive attitude. Even through the toughest times, which included losing her curly, long hair, Terry kept a smile on her face as best she could. Terry wouldn't let her friends and family be scared, so they fed off her positive energy working together to survive the situation. Now cancer free, Terry is often seen clad in pink sharing her story. Often, Terry will simply stop and ask fellow cancer sufferers, "How long has it been?" The simple question to a stranger leads to powerful conversations, hugs and friendships. She has supported the recently diagnosed and celebrated with the survivors. Besides the moral support, Terry has become a fundraiser. Whether it is getting the manliest men to wear pink bracelets or gathering a large group for a special event/fund raiser, she inspires her friends and family to fight for the cure. Terry spent more than a decade teaching girls life skills while coaching fast-pitch softball. Now, she spends those hours at Miller Park cheering the Brewers. Therefore, it would be fitting to have a large group of friends and family cheer Terry as she is honored as a symbol for the fight against breast cancer.

Cardinals

Cyndi Stotler nominated by Stacy Abeles

When diagnosed with invasive ductal carcinoma insitu, Cyndi Stotler felt it was time to make changes in her life. Focusing on her treatment and recovery, she left her full-time position in Health Care Administration while undergoing surgery and chemo treatments. On the same day she started radiation treatment, Cyndi started as a Program Nurse Manager at Gateway to Hope with the goal of helping others obtain the treatment they need following a breast cancer diagnosis. With a recent breast cancer diagnosis, she has become a beacon of hope and encouragement to Gateway to Hope patients. She is not only thorough in medical assessments but has the ability to lend a critical ear while providing the support that can only come from a survivor. We are fortunate to have the privilege of working with her and seeing firsthand the impact she has on our patients. We are just a few of many who love and adore Cyndi. She is a devoted wife, mother, daughter and friend. Cyndi is a tried and true St. Louis sports fan and the St. Louis Cardinals definitely rank at the top of her list. She is honest about her fears that her breast cancer could strike again at any moment. Yet on any given day she can be found giving counsel and her professional expertise as a program nurse manager to a breast cancer patient in need. Cyndi goes to bat against breast cancer daily, not only for herself but for all those who have either lost, are fighting or will fight a brave battle against this horrible disease.

Cubs

Kaitlon Busser

I was in the fifth grade when I initially heard the words "mother" and "cancer" in the same sentence. Throughout the rest of middle school and high school, my mother had three relapses, with her last one diagnosing her with Stage IV breast cancer. I am now 18 years old, a freshman in college, and lost my mother to this cowardly disease on March 13, 2012. Through her own track, volleyball, basketball, and softball success in high school, and her preference of ESPN over TLC, it was obvious to all that my mom was a sports fanatic. She always had a strong passion for the Chicago Cubs and Bears. The atmosphere of a sports event put a special glow in her eyes, especially while watching her own children on the field or court. She taught me true strength, showed me how to be brave even during life's toughest moments, and helped me to understand the value of life. By walking 60 miles in three days and participating in other local awareness and fundraising activities, my team has raised over \$42,000 for the Susan G. Komen breast cancer foundation. My mother will always be my pink warrior. There is nothing I would rather do than go to bat against breast cancer by being an Honorary Bat Girl in her name on the first Mother's Day I will not be able to share with her.

Diamondbacks

Stacey Dyer

I was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 36. That was November 2008. I had a double mastectomy the day before Thanksgiving 2008 in order to wake up and be Thankful on Thanksgiving day that my medical team removed all the cancer from my body. By the grace of God, that happened. I underwent 4 rounds of chemo. At the point of loosing my hair, I had a headshaving party and sported a Pink mohawk for the day! I chose to dominate at least that part of my treatment. I'm happy to say I have been cancer free now for 2 and half years. In that time I have wallked the AZ Susan G Komen 3-Day and volunteered as a Community Outreach Ambassador with the local affiliate of Susan G Komen. I belong to a wonderful survivor group called Pink Links. I'm passionate about spreading awareness and educating about early detection. I firmly believe if my experience can save just one person from dying of this disease, then my journey is 100 percent worth it! I am walking again this year in the 3-Day in San Diego. I hope to win this so I can stand up and show the world that cancer is NOT the winner....Survivors are the winners!!!! Go Diamondbacks!!!!

Dodgers

Lisa Nevelo-Lewis

As a survivor giving back feels like a responsibility, I share my story of going from what was thought to be early stage 2 to the reality of Stage 3B. Four years out and I am still here and cancer free. I share the scars, the side affects, and that even if you have no family history is not a reason to pass on the BRACA Gene analysis. Four years out I tested positive for the BRACA2 Gene mutation. I just had a prophylactic right mastectomy. I have never veered away from the most aggressive choices. Left modified radical mastectomy with concurrent DIEP Flap reconstruction. TAC protocol Chemo (6 rounds), radiation 28 rounds, Tamoxifen, Hysterectomy, and now a right mastectomy with latissimus dorsi flap reconstruction. Great team of surgeons Dr. Maggie Dinome and Dr. Tracy Cordray. My children are actors and we have all participated in SU2C commercials (one while I was still having chemo). They volunteer for runway shows or anything connected with cancer awareness. My favorite thing ask my children about my cancer, and they will tell you," they forget I'm a cancer survivor."..the best gift ever through this whole ordeal. Be your own self advocate and eliminate any threat so you can go back to living your life without the shadow of cancer in the wings.

Giants

Connie Bennett nominated by Gail Nelson

I am nominating my dear friend, Connie Bennett. Connie is an inspiration to all of us. About 2 years ago, Connie was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy and has since undergone several reconstructive surgeries. Connie has never complained once to any of us of the ordeal she went through. I am happy to say that Connie is Cancer Free now. Connie now brings Breast Cancer Awareness to everyone around her. She strongly encourages all women to have their annual mammograms and brings the awareness to the forefront of everyone's mind on a daily basis. Connie is so grateful to be alive that she pours all of her time and energy into helping others. She has taken the California Oncology Group under her wings and conducts all kinds of fundraising projects to help their group. She holds bake sales and Bunco parties and all donations go to the California Oncology Group. She purchases gift cards to help out the patients who go for chemotherapy treatments who cannot afford food, gas, or medication. Connie has been a tremendous help to these people. We love Connie so much that we totally believe in what Connie is doing to help others and we all jump in and help Connie in any way we can. Connie does not like the recognition for herself.--she only wants to bring awareness to others about breast cancer. Connie is truly an inspiration to all and an Angel to those in need.

Indians

Kelli Andres nominated by Van Andres

I would like to nominate my wife, Kelli, to be Honorary Bat Girl at a Cleveland Indians game. She is a wife, mother and cancer survivor. In 2010, she was diagnosed with stage III breast cancer and spent most of the year in treatment with surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. It wasn't her first time fighting cancer. Almost 35 years ago at the age of 12, she lost her leg to childhood bone cancer. Today, she is doing great and cancer free! She now spends her time "going to bat" against breast cancer by volunteering every Monday at the cancer center where she was treated, offering books and magazines to cancer patients while sharing her story and giving them hope with her positive attitude. She shares her cancer experience in interviews whenever asked, hoping to save lives by reminding women to get tested. She is also captain of TEAM ANDRES for Susan G. Komen for the Cure in Northwest Ohio. In 2011, our team of almost 60 family and friends raised more than \$4,000, putting TEAM ANDRES in the top 25 fundraising teams of the more than 17,000 participants. It was a family event and she showed our two sons, Patrick, 10 and Noah, 5, that giving back is important and helped them host a PINK lemonade stand that raised \$145 for our Race for the Cure team. We are all Cleveland Indians fans and I know she would love to be a part of an event bringing awareness to the fight against breast cancer. It would be a great way for her to celebrate being cancer free and proudly wear her pink!

Mariners

Nancy Haunty nominated by Kelly West

Nancy Haunty, the wife of one of my co-workers, has been going to bat against breast cancer for the past 9 ½ years. In 2002, Nancy was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had surgery, radiation therapy, and 6 months of chemo. Once Nancy's hair returned, went back to her 'normal life'. All was going well until 2007, when Nancy had a local recurrence of her cancer. This time, Nancy had a mastectomy followed by another 6 months of chemo. Following her treatment, Nancy and her oncologist chose to have a mastectomy on her unaffected breast followed by reconstructive surgery. She recovered well and 'took the field' in her cancer-free life. In September 2009, Nancy was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer: metastases in her liver, lungs and spine. Her 6-month treatment went well, and she 'took the field' again. Last week, Nancy learned the cancer had spread to her brain. She finds herself stepping into the batter's box yet again with a positive outlook and an Ichiro-like focus. Nancy has been going to bat against cancer for women in the Seattle area. She became actively engaged in local organizations that help women with breast cancer in real ways: financial assistance, caring baskets, and group physical activities. She even traveled to Washington, DC last year to testify to the FDA for a drug that hit a home run against her Stage 4 cancer. Nancy's passion is to support other women who are going through experiences that are like her experience with cancer over the past 9 1/2 years.

Marlins

Gale West

In 1988 I lost my mother to breast cancer. I learned immediately the importance of yearly mammograms and self examination; sadly something Mom didn't do. In September 2001 I faced the same diagnosis. With the loss of my mother and my own fight; support for awareness has become an important part of my life. Early detection is the key and creating awareness every day can make that happen. As a lifetime fan of baseball I am thrilled and so grateful that the MLB has been such a strong voice in creating awareness. Knowing that when the players swing their pink bats and wear their pink gear on game day they are sending a powerful message to their fans everywhere; truly going to bat against breast cancer. In October 2011 I celebrated 10 years cancer free by going "to bat" myself with the help of family and friends. Together we raised over \$1000 for research. The outpour of love and support was amazing; my "team" just kept growing and my commitment grew stronger. I love baseball, I love the Marlins and I would be so proud and "over the moon" to be part of the day that the Miami Marlins go to bat against cancer creating awareness like only they can do; playing ball!

Mets

Sara Kouten nominated by John Kouten

Sara - loving mother, daughter, spouse, and die-hard Met's fan. At 40, on 6/24/08, she was diagnosed with aggressive triple negative breast cancer. She also discovered that she was positive for the BRCA1 gene mutation. After three 2nd opinions, she made the decision to have her breasts and ovaries removed. She had multiple tests, surgeries and treatments. Today, despite discomfort and pain, Sara is considered cancer free and focused on paying-it-forward. Regardless of financial challenges we take time especially around Mother's Day, to catch a Met's game as a family. Sara is proud of her heritage as a Met's fan and identifies with the "underdog," and of course she loves David Wright and Daniel Murphy! Sara works hard every day raising 3 teens, is a proud member of the Machestic Dragons dragon boat team and works full time. Sara also gives freely of her time to multiple BC charities. Separated from her feminine identity (breasts, uterus and ovaries), Sara struggles to find a new normal. Menopausal at 40, reduced energy levels, and significant loss of bone mineral density would give anyone great excuses to give up. Not our Sara. I can say without reservation that Sara would make an excellent honorary bat girl! But be careful --if she's allowed in the dugout she might start giving Terry Collins advice. In the future Sara hopes to work in hospice or patient navigation. Sara is grateful for the support she received and desires to that no one should go through it alone.

Nationals

Laurie Jo Neary nominated by Kara Robert

LJ was diagnosed on Dec. 30, 2008 with Invasive Ductal Carcinoma. After several surgical procedures and many rounds of radiation & chemotherapy, Laurie Jo is a survivor, & is consistently going to bat against cancer. Mother of 3, LJ says, "I am doing everything in my power against breast cancer, to ensure that my daughters never have to say mom I have breast cancer." She is captain for 2nd Base Coaches, a team walking in the SGK 3 day. This will be LJ's 2nd 3-day. She participates in 5ks to raise money for BC. She was the key speaker after finishing a 5k she helped organize. LJ plans to raise funds for SGK while also raising money to start a foundation for women who need assistance while going through treatment. LJ is also a Pampered Chef consultant & pushes the sales of her Help Whip Cancer products in May & Oct. LJ keeps a blog of her journey. The blog has been helpful to fellow cancer patients thru stories & pictures. Not many are brave enough to share their scars from cancer, but LJ shares it to give hope and educate. She is a member of the Army of Women. In Oct, I sport my pink everyday & honor those have survived or are fighting & those we have lost." 8/18/10 blog entry: 1 year ago today, I didn't know how long I would have with my children 1 year ago today, I was exhausted 1 year ago today, my skin was burnt and bloody 1 year ago today, I had my last treatment Today I am cancer free. Today I feel better than I have in at least 10 yrs. Today I am a survivor, a warrior.

Orioles

Tammy Kestler nominated by Romeo Santos

Life was going great for Tammy Kestler back in 2010. She was pregnant and enjoying life with her husband and two kids. Just eight weeks after bringing her third child into this world her doctor said those two terrifying words that no woman ever wants to hear, breast cancer. She was diagnosed at age 35 with a rare metaplastic carcinoma. She lost her job due to her diagnoses and spent the next year going through rounds of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Like many women battling cancer, her hair fell out, nausea became the norm, and her husband had more responsibility around the house. After 12 months of treatment she had no evidence of disease. Breast cancer was defeated but the fight wasn't over for Tammy. She had a strong support group of Young Survivors (women under 40) that helped her through this journey. She went on to help other survivors. Tammy was a team Captain for her Young Survivors group for Komen's Race for the Cure. Her group raised over \$11,000 to help fight this horrible disease. Tammy has been a mentor to young women struggling through breast cancer. She has personally helped my wife Tracy Santos (2010 Orioles Honorary Bat Girl) until her passing. This woman is more than just a breast cancer survivor, more than just a huge O's fan, Tammy is a hero among women, a fighter who keeps on fighting, and I am proud to call her my friend. Please vote for her to be the Orioles Honorary Bat girl and allow me to see another great woman toss out the first pitch.

Padres

Sandy Sibley nominated by Scott Sibley

Even though it was 11 years ago, I remember the day I found out my mom had breast cancer like it was yesterday. I was a junior in high school and there was no way to properly comprehend the thought of losing the person who had always been both a rock in my life, and the reason I've been a lifelong Padres fan and season ticket holder. On top of the cancer news, we were also housing my ailing grandfather and navigating our way through an unexpected and forced house move. They say things always come in three's, they just aren't always a good set of three. Being her only child, while it may not have always been appreciated at the time, I was lucky enough to always have her complete devotion, attention and love. Team mom for my sports team? Check. Delicious food on the table at all times? Check. Countless trips to Padres games and special team events? Check. Always going above and beyond? Double check. And now all of those things could be taken away? Not. A. Chance! Being the fighter that she is, my mom successfully went through a double mastectomy and has been cancer free ever since! She continues to enjoy taking part in Susan G Komen events on a yearly basis, as it is because of the research being done by that foundation, and countless others, that have allowed us to continue looking forward to Opening Day this year and many years to come! Getting the chance to be an honorary batgirl would be the best Mother's Day gift this mother, teacher and Padres fan could receive!

Phillies

Barbie Brown

I am a Sgt in the US Marines. I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer while deployed to Afghanistan in February, 2011. I was sent to the Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed in Bethesda MD where I am currently undergoing treatment. I went through 4 months of Chemotherapy, a bilateral mastectomy, and radiation treatment. As a result of my BRCA2+ status putting me at high risk, I also had to endure further surgeries in order to reduce my recurrence of Breast Cancer and any risk of Ovarian Cancer in the future. During my treatment process, I have been running marathons with the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans and training to participate in a 50K, the Tough Mudder Challenge, the Young Survivors Coalition Tour de Pink East Coast bike ride from Philly to DC and the Ride 2 Recovery (a bike ride from MA to NY) with other injured veterans like myself. I am hoping to inspire other young women going through the same journey I am as well as women in the military and veterans that, due to the unique situations of the military, need someone that can navigate, support, assist and mentor them along the treatment path. With very few women in the Marines, Breast Cancer is not often discussed amongst fellow service members. I would like to be the person to go to bat for these women and let them know that there are other young women in the military like myself that have endured and have been empowered and overcame all obstacles.

Pirates

Angie Thompson nominated by John Thomas

I am writing on behalf of my sister Angie Thompson. At the age of 36 and pregnant with her third child, my sister was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is the strongest person I know to have to go through this horrible disease. She and her husband Toby are raising three kids and while she was going through chemo Angie stayed stronger than any of us. She would teach to her online students, take the kids to their sporting events and concerts, even if she was tired, she never complained. The first day of each week she would go to the hospital for her chemo therapy. She never missed the kids events and was in great spirits every day. The kids, Tyus, Lacy and Colton, along with Toby have helped throughout this tough year in a half. She is now cancer free and is hoping to go to multiple games and support the Bucs! Angie has been an inspiration to me and her family and I hope you consider her for Honorary Bat Girl at PNC Park. She is a lifelong fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates and I believe this would be a great way to celebrate her battle and defeating Cancer.

Rangers

Anne Embry nominated by Bob Wieland

Anne spent her 29th birthday preparing to fight for her life. A biopsy had confirmed a lump in her left breast was cancerous, and she opted for a double mastectomy. Nobody in her family had developed breast cancer, but it turned out Anne carried a mutant gene that predisposed her to the disease. Anne underwent surgery two days after Christmas and began chemotherapy in February. After shaving her head, Anne had to reassure her two-year-old daughter that Mommy was fine and her precious girl would not lose her hair. The cancer was discovered while Anne and her husband, an active duty Air Force pilot, were trying to have a second child. That dream is now on hold for five years. The couple is also trying to cope with a pending re-assignment that would mean switching medical care providers. But Anne remains upbeat, saying "Praying and Fighting, there are no other options." She has now completed three of four chemo treatments and is blogging about her fight; receiving tremendous support from her family, friends, and extended military family. She also has donated \$750 to the "Bright Pink" organization by selling "Fight Like a Girl" t-shirts. Anne is a lifelong Texas Rangers fan, has Nolan Ryan's and Ivan Rodriguez' autographs on the same ball, and attended Game 3 of the 2010 World Series. Serving the Rangers as an honorary bat girl -- while helping to promote the fight against breast cancer -- would be an inspiring fulfillment for two great passions.

Rays

Lori Fraser

My story is a success story of why early detection is the best. I was diagnosed of breast cancer May 14, 2010. I did not have any lumps or bumps. I went to have my regular mammogram and ultrasound. The mammogram came out fine, but the ultrasound found something. Well, long story is, it was breast cancer. My sister died of breast cancer in 1995, with this, I decided to do a double mastectomy. Since I did the double mastectomy, I did not have to do radiation or chemo. I am a success. I am not only a survivor, but a loyal RAYS fan. The day I was diagnosed, my family thought it was going to be a different result. They had made dinner reservations at my favorite place to eat. I really did not want to go out to eat after the news, but I did want to do something that we as a family love to do, go to a Rays game!! The Rays helped us out the summer I had my surgery. My first outing after my surgery was to go watch a game with friends, and that is what I did.

Red Sox

Cathy Holt nominated by Megan Moody

I am nominating my hero, best friend, and mom, Cathy Holt. She was diagnosed with Stage 2-3 Breast Cancer in November 2008 just weeks before I found out I was pregnant with my 2nd child. Two days before Christmas she underwent a 9 hour mastectomy and reconstruction surgery. She spent the holiday in the ICU comforted by many visitors. Shortly after the recovery of her mastectomy she had to undergo 4 rounds of chemotherapy. Through all of the treatments and 5 surgeries she continued to not only fight to beat the cancer but go to work through it all despite how terrible she was feeling. Now every year since her diagnosis she has headed up teams for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer as well as the annual Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society raising thousands of dollars for the cause. Now just recently she has been diagnosed with Lymphodema and has to wear a nylon sleeve from knuckles to shoulder everyday for the rest of her life. She has been a devoted Red Sox fan since the 1970's even supporting a Red Sox tattoo on her ankle with the dates of recent World Series Winnings (leaving a space open for their next win!). Winning "Honorary Bat Girl" would mean the world to her and everyone around her who has been supporting her. So please vote for my mom! The picture is of my mom and my daughter who I had just found out I was pregnant with weeks after her diagnosis at Relay For Life 2011.

Reds

Tina Amrhein nominated by Jeff Montag

At age 19, Tina Amrhein lost her mother, Diane, to breast cancer, and so has supported cancer awareness for years; regularly participating in events like Relay For Life. With this family history, when Tina was recently diagnosed with breast cancer she made the tough but quick decision for radical surgery, to be followed with aggressive chemotherapy. Along with being very active in their church and tirelessly helping with numerous benefit events Tina and (husband) Kevin, parents of two grown children, have become foster parents to two young brothers. They have volunteered as Special Olympics coaches for many years, and recently, while still suffering the effects of her first chemo treatment, Tina traveled to Terra Haute, Indiana, to cheer, as Kevin coached his men's basketball team to the state gold medal. She simply would not have missed it. This spring Tina had been planning to help at a benefit for a man seriously injured by a home intruder. Due to having had her surgery just three days before, she was unable to physically help; but Tina and Kevin arrived at the event as she was determined to attend, support and encourage her former coworker in his recovery. Motivated by her daughter's decision to become a nurse, Tina returned to school, and had, just prior to her diagnosis, completed her nursing education, finding yet another way to help others. Tina Amrhein encourages us all with her ever positive attitude, humor, and tenacity.

Rockies

Mabel Miyasaki nominated by Melissa Golden

My grandmother, Mabel Miyasaki, known to most as "G-ma," is a 38-year breast cancer survivor. G-ma first discovered a lump during a self-exam. She went in for a checkup, and a biopsy revealed that the lump was malignant. Doctors performed a radical mastectomy, followed by an agonizing five-day waiting period for lab analysis to determine if the cancer had spread. Luckily it had not, so radiation and chemo were unnecessary. G-ma strongly encourages women to perform regular self-exams. She celebrates a cancer-free lifestyle by enjoying and appreciating life one day at a time. G-ma usually wears pink, purple, or a combination of the two in support of breast cancer awareness and the Colorado Rockies. She is the Rockies #1 fan! She spends her birthday at spring training each year and attends as many Rockies games as possible throughout the year. If G-ma's not at a game, you can be assured she's watching it on TV at home! G-ma does all she can to keep busy and stay young. At 87 years old, she still works at McDonald's 4 days a week. G-ma is a strong and beautiful woman who makes a lasting impact on everyone she meets. She didn't let cancer beat her. In fact, she uses it as her badge of courage when supporting others fighting the deadly disease, giving them the faith and encouragement that they, too, can win the battle. G-ma's known for being that "crazy old Japanese lady" who bleeds Rockies baseball and spreads her contagious smile and love for life.

Royals

Lori Mullen

I was 39 yrs old when I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Breast Cancer and a rare type which is known as a "Triple Negative". This type is much more aggressive and reoccurs quickly, sort of like the rare triple play in baseball only the Royal's triple play in 2006 was way more fun and doesn't occur often enough! I was diagnosed Dec. 2009 and immediately underwent 20 weeks of chemo, a double mastectomy and reconstruction all in one year. One of the ways my family cheered me up was by getting rocks from the George Brett Bridge during it's reconstruction- new bridge, new breasts! Then in November 2010, the cancer came back! This time at bat, I had 36 rounds of radiation and chemo at the same time! Talk about extra innings for a wife and mother! We thought we would be good to go for awhile with the cancer traded to a farm club but in January of 2012 it happened again! I am currently undergoing more chemo and have lost my hair once again. Good thing I love baseball hats and my KC Royals. I am still the biggest George Brett fan and my family got me an autographed bat to knock this cancer out of the park! I long to share my love of the Royals with my kids instead of always being sick or running to doctor's appts. I try to teach my kids to believe in GOD and family, and in GOD and family you discover amazing hope and strength you never thought possible. I want to show them with this belief you can overcome and achieve anything! Go Royals! Please vote to take me out to the ballpark!

Tigers

Corrie Thornburg nominated by Brad Thornburg

Corrie is a three time breast cancer survivor and a diehard Tiger fan! She is currently undergoing chemotherapy for the third time in preparation for another extensive surgery. Even though cancer has attacked her body three times, she refuses to let cancer take control of her life! Corrie approaches everyday with a don't give up attitude, an inner strength, and a smile on her face. She is determined to keep life as normal as possible for her two young children, her husband and the students in her high school science classes. During her extensive surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy she continued to teach, because her students needed the stability and leadership that she provides. Between chemo treatments in 2011 she attended multiple Tiger games (see picture) and she already has tickets for games in 2012 even though she is again undergoing cancer treatment. Her love of baseball does not stop with the Tigers, she attended her son's baseball game only a few hours after a chemo treatment. Corrie is also the inspirational leader of multiple efforts that unite her family, friends and students to raise thousands of dollars to help in the fight against cancer. Corrie is a hero to many of us that have the privilege of knowing her! She is definitely going to bat against breast cancer!

Twins

Kristin Anderson

In September, three days after my 28th birthday, I went in to have a lump in my left breast examined. A week later I got the dreaded phone call: it was malignant and growing fast. To date, I have received two intense rounds of chemotherapy and am scheduled to have a double mastectomy with immediate reconstruction on April 9th, 2012. One thing that makes my experience unique is that during the diagnostic process, I learned that I am a carrier of a mutation in the BRCA1 gene (which predisposes one to breast cancer). There are many BRCA1 mutations, however, I have one so rare that we could even determine the region of Norway my ancestors are from. Although I have not officially transitioned from "battling" to "survivor" status, I am trying to promote breast cancer awareness in as many ways as I can. I have been keeping a public Caring Bridge blog and writing guest entries for the "Women of Strength" cancer survivor website. To raise money for the cause, I formed a team and participated in the Tubbs Romp to Stomp out Breast Cancer Snowshoe Event. Finally, to promote cutting edge discoveries in breast cancer detection and treatment, I have applied to become a consumer reviewer on a federal Breast Cancer Research Review Panel. This group awards government funding for breast cancer research to scientists across the country. I would be honored to represent all of those affected by breast cancer as an Honorary Bat Girl for the Twins! Thank you for taking the time to read my story!

White Sox

Cory Cammarano nominated by Tasha Huebner

I first met Cori at a fundraiser for YSC, an organization for young women with breast cancer. She was making sure that everything was running smoothly, while also welcoming people who didn't know anyone else, and with her amazing spirit making everyone happy to be part of this event. Since that night, I've seen how Cori has continued to not let cancer slow her down - in fact, she bulldozes through any obstacles placed in her path, and says "ha, take that!" to cancer while never looking back. And even during chemo, radiation, and all her surgeries, Cori has always done what she could to support others. From getting her entire family to participate in Komen races and raising astonishing amounts of money, to last summer organizing a big "Splash Back at Breast Cancer" awareness event at a local water park, Cori is so passionate about the cure that even her 7-year old son Peter puts a pink ribbon on all his drawings in school! She is always there for her cancer girls, whether they live in Canada or Chicago, and guides the newly diagnosed through those painful early days either at monthly meetings at Gilda's Club, or by organizing dinners in the Chicago area. She has been a key driving force behind YSC Chicago, and making the group as strong as it is. Cori pushes people when they need it, offers a shoulder to cry on, and all the encouragement in the world. When it comes to fighting breast cancer and showing it who's boss, Cori has been hitting it out of the park since day one!

Yankees

Erika Rech nominated by Erika Rech

Erika Rech was just 15 when her mom was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. Six months later, her aunt was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer. A third aunt was diagnosed soon after. Erika wanted to make a difference to women who were struggling with breast cancer and, with her cousin, she started the charity Breast Intentions. (www.breastintentions.org). Erika has worked for the last 4 years to build her charity and raise money for women who are struggling financially while they are at the lowest point in their lives. Her charity has raised over \$500,000, which has all gone back to patients in need. She has expanded her charity to NY, Georgia, Mass, Illinois and Connecticut. In 2011 she paid the following for patients in need: 13 Mortgage payments, 8 Medication payments, 11 Co-pays, 21 Electric bills, 14 Gas bills, 2 Sewer bills, 8 Phone bills, 7 Cable bills, 4 Water bills, 18 Rent payments, 1 Maint. Fee, 5 Car payments, 1 Car repair, 2 Garbage bill, 2 Tax bills, 2 Health ins. premiums, 2 Car ins. premiums, 1 Wheelchair, 1 MRI, Purchased groceries/gift cards for 12 patients, Purchased gas cards for 16 patients, Purchased Christmas gifts for 2 families, Purchased college text books for 1 family, Purchased microwave for 1 family, Purchased flowers for 1 family, Arranged for Lawn Mowing service for 1 patient, Provided transportation from surgery for 1 patient. Erika is a special young lady and a lifelong Yankee fan. She would be so thrilled to receive this honor.