

COVER STORY – Supporting a Cause – Meg Barry



Meg Barry, 2003, English and Mass Communications

Recently chosen for the Honorary Team New Balance representing North Texas breast cancer survivors

(Meg is shown above with her children, Kate and Sean, in "Elizabeth's Garden," an area of flower and butterfly signs dedicated to those who are survivors and those who lost their battles with the disease. "Planting" something in the garden raises extra money for the prevention, detection and research for the cure of cancer.)

TWU Alumni Connection recently asked alumna Meg Barry to share her breast cancer survivor story. Meg has logged many miles of walks, both short and lengthy, in support of the Susan G. Komen For the Cure, most recently in September, 2011, for the Denton Race for the Cure. Here is her story!

In July 2008, I went for a routine mammogram. A couple days later, my doctor called to say that the technicians wanted to look at my right breast again, so I had another mammogram and a sonogram. There was a tiny, tiny mass, which they weren't sure was a cyst or something else. It was decided to watch it to see if it grew. Of course, it did grow.

On Feb. 4, 2009, I had a biopsy and it showed that the fast-growing mass was indeed cancer. So, on Feb. 25, I had a lumpectomy; and the surgeon took out some lymph nodes for testing. Two of the nine lymph nodes tested positive for tumor. On March 6, the surgeon removed more lymph nodes, but those all tested negative for tumor. (Whew! All clear!) I underwent 6 rounds of chemotherapy, followed by 6 weeks of radiation therapy.

I've always been a walker – including walking the Dallas and Plano Races for the Cure for years and years. With my oncologist's approval, I continued my walking, not only at the Races, but also at the 2009

Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure in Dallas-Fort Worth. That year, I trained to walk 60 miles in three days while undergoing my cancer treatments. With the support of other participants, training walk leaders and my family, I walked the entire 60 miles – bald, but happy! I also walked the 2010 3-Day and am training for the 2011 DFW event now, which is November 4-6.

Recently, I began volunteering for Komen’s North Texas Affiliate by working at health fairs. I really enjoy talking to people and reminding them to get mammograms (especially since that’s how my cancer was found). I also got to see faces of delight when I told Denton County residents that the Affiliate was holding its first-ever Denton Race for the Cure on Sept. 24, 2011. Like those people, I’m thrilled to have a Race for the Cure in “my backyard.”



(Meg is shown in the photo with “Mean” Joe Green, an honorary host of the Denton Race for the Cure, whose wife is also a survivor)

Why do I do so much for Susan G. Komen for the Cure? I truly believe they saved my life. Through the research that they helped fund, the diagnosis and the treatment for breast cancer have advanced so much in the last 25 years. I’m grateful to give back to an organization that has given so much to me.

I would love to start a team of **TWU** former students for next year’s (2012) Denton Race for the Cure. I hope you all will join me to walk, run or “sleep-in” for the Cure!!