

My name is Denise Hockenberry
I'm 50 yrs young!

17 yrs ago I found a lump in my armpit area during an aerobics class. The very next day I was in a bad car accident and on the ambulance ride the paramedic asked me of any bumps that I could feel, I explained the lump under my arm was there the day before the wreck. Still not thinking it was anything to worry about, the ER nurse asked me to show her the lump, she insisted I go immediately that day to have it checked, I tried to explain it was not from the wreck. When they sent me to the plaza to get an ultra sound on the lump, I could not understand why they were so concerned about this little lump in my armpit. When I was asked to allow them to BIOPSY the lump, I was frozen.

That very day I was told within an hour that I had breast cancer. All alone thinking...I need to get home, my 2 children were soon due to get off the bus.

I could not speak for about 2 hours, I had a knot in my throat, like fighting off crying. Both my parents were here within 24hrs and saw me through surgeries, chemo, and radiation. I had a lumpectomy 17 yrs ago, and just this last year opted for a full mastectomy and complete reconstruction. This journey has brought me to such an amazing place in my life. I'm in this army of pink ribbon survivors that share a bond like no other.