

Martha Tallant – Breast Cancer Story

My story is short and sweet. But most importantly, I am blessed to be cancer free for twelve years.

At the age of 54, my life was drastically changed. It was early May 2003, and I had scheduled my yearly mammogram. (My husband and I had also scheduled a trip to Hawaii to celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary at the end of May). My mammogram showed a small lump, which was biopsied. It was a long grueling few days; waiting to hear from my surgeon's office about the biopsy. And wouldn't you know, they called me late Friday afternoon and told me that the lump was malignant. What a long weekend that was!

I had no family history of breast cancer! How did this happen? Why me.....but why not me? On Monday we met with the doctor and decided that a lumpectomy followed by radiation treatments would be the best treatment for me. Following the successful lumpectomy and radiation treatments, my life pretty much returned to normal. It was a simple plan and it worked for me. However, even now, when I have my mammogram, I get very concerned; scared really. I don't think that will ever change! I am ever so grateful for knowledgeable surgeons and oncologists and radiologists, as well as, the most up to date mammography equipment and all the other medical specialists involved in treating breast (or any) cancer.

I was at the very first Race for the Cure in 2000; not even realizing that breast cancer would one day affect my life. (And I have missed very few races since the beginning). I volunteer a lot in the Komen office and whether I'm counting shirts or preparing mail-outs, I enjoy my time spent there. I pray, like so many others, that one day we will find the cure to end breast cancer FOREVER!