

NANCY BLOW - 2014 HONORARY SURVIVOR CHAIR



After leaving a breast health education event at her local church, Nancy Blow did exactly as the nurse suggested. Nancy performed a breast self-exam, and to her surprise, she felt something similar to the lump that she felt on the model.

Nancy, then, age 40, called her doctor. With no baseline mammogram, doctors worked and determined that Nancy had early-stage breast cancer.

“My initial reaction was that I was too young. My daughter, Julie, was only 15, and she didn’t need to have her mom fighting a terrible disease. I was determined to fight it with everything I had,” said Blow, now age 57, of Tipton.

In celebration of Blow’s breast cancer journey, the Komen Quad Cities Affiliate is naming her the Honorary Survivor Chair for 2014.

While Nancy’s cancer was found early, her journey didn’t go unchallenged. Nancy had a single mastectomy, and she was very nauseous from 6 months of chemotherapy.

“I was sick and tired of being sick and tired when I wasn’t sick and tired in the first place,” said Nancy, now a 17-year breast cancer survivor.

Thankfully, Nancy’s cancer has not returned since she finished her treatment more than a decade ago. She now works for the Iowa Association of School Business Officials.

Nancy says her faith in God led her through her struggle. She was also loved and supported by her husband, John, her daughter, Julie, friends, her oncologist, and co-workers at the New London Community School District along the way.

Nancy was nominated for the Honorary Survivor Chair role by numerous women, including Bev Petitgout of Tipton.

“Nancy is such an uplifting person. She is always there for everyone. She is good-hearted,” said Petitgout.

Through her role as Honorary Survivor Chair, Nancy hopes she can help other women.

“I want them to know that there is hope. Komen does research and brings awareness to women and helps provide services that they need,” she said.

The 25th Anniversary of the Komen Quad Cities Race for the Cure is scheduled for June 14, 2014. Since the inception of the Race in 1990, more than \$5.5 million has been raised to provide education, breast health services, and groundbreaking research.