



## Jean L.

When my sister was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in January 2002 I knew that I was now at high risk for breast cancer too. At the time I was so focused on my sister's diagnosis and treatment that I gave little thought to my increased risk for the disease. However, in November 2003 I was diagnosed with invasive cancer in my left breast and DCIS in my right breast. I was shocked and frightened but also hopeful after seeing how well my sister had coped and recovered. In the weeks following my diagnosis I was like most women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. I was on an emotional roller coaster and facing so many difficult decisions. That's when BCCR became so important to me. I had an outstanding team of physicians and the love and support of my partner, Cindy, who encouraged and comforted me. I was also very fortunate to have my daughter and my sister at my side when I needed them most. Even though I had my family and many caring friends during this very difficult time in my life the women I met at the Friday Brown Bag sessions became a valuable part of my support network. These new friends had "been there" or were in the same place I was. I will always be grateful for how my life has been enriched by these women. Each and every one of them is an inspiration.