



Fran N.

I was diagnosed in December of 2011 after I felt a lump in my breast. What was amazing is that I discovered it only three short months after my annual mammogram. During that time my brother had died suddenly and I had to travel to his funeral. That's where my focus was. The breast cancer was a shock to me, but I dealt with it. After the funeral, I came home and my Gynecologist suggested I have another mammogram. After multiple exams the diagnosis was confirmed. My Gynecologist helped me find a surgeon. I chose to have a partial mastectomy. For 6 weeks, I went to radiation treatments, and then straight to work. I was determined to not let the breast cancer stop me. I was told that radiation would cause lasting fatigue for many weeks. I chose not to listen to that statistic, because I got up each day and did what I had to do. I didn't even take time off of work.

I discovered the BCCR through Rochester Women's Magazine. When I browsed through it and came across a message about BCCR, I thought it looked interesting, and decided to come. Like many women who come here for the first time, I was a little apprehensive. I am so glad I came. When I did come, I felt at peace because I could relate to the other women. At first, I did not feel like talking about my breast cancer. I just enjoyed being around other ladies who are survivors. During this whole thing, I am not focusing on myself. If I can be an inspiration to someone else, that's encouraging me to come back. I love being in the company of the women at the Coalition. I realize I am on the journey, and I'm marching on. No matter what, I march on.