



## Anne W.

I was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in September 2014. I didn't know what lay ahead for me, but I'd never have guessed that I'd still be here four years later, and that my life would be so rich and full of joy.

When I got sick I was living life all out, working long hours at a demanding new job and devoting all my personal energy to my family, with one daughter heading for college and one just starting high school. After a tough surgical recovery, I resumed my busy life, making only as much room as I had to for my ongoing cancer treatment. But the cancer wouldn't be ignored. As treatments became more demanding and my energy was depleted, I realized that I had to slow down and devote myself to fighting the disease.

It took me a while to connect with the Breast Cancer Coalition. Because at first, I was only focusing on my physical recovery, then on my ongoing recovery and obligations. I didn't want to give cancer any more of my attention than necessary, and that included support programs. It was only after I stopped working and had time to think about what I really needed that I visited the Coalition, joining a friend at the Common Ground group. There I found a whole new support system that I hadn't realized I needed, and to which I could add value. My contributions there add meaning to my life. I've made wonderful new friends, and I've lost a few. I love the sisterhood at BCCR and am immeasurably glad that I found my way here – no matter how long it took.