



Bright Light Foundation

Brandy Letchworth

2009 BLF Recipient



My name is Brandy Letchworth and I am 31 years old. I am married to Byron "Scooter" Letchworth, and we have a wonderful three-year-old son named Cooper. We live in a small community, named Mire, located near Lafayette, LA, and I am employed by M-I SWACO.

In September of 2008, I noticed a small lump on my forehead. At first I thought nothing of it. Eventually, I decided to see my general practitioner (GP) to see what he thought. I actually thought he would laugh at me and say it was nothing. I had no other symptoms, no headaches, no eye vision problems, nothing. My GP had no clue what it was so he referred me to a local ear, nose, and throat doctor (ENT). A CT scan and MRI were performed. Much to my surprise a mast was found in my Frontal Sinus Cavity. With it all moving very fast and me being terrified, surgery was scheduled by two specialists in Baton Rouge, LA, to remove the mast and biopsy it. On October 14, 2008, I had

surgery to remove the mast and to reconstruct my forehead as the tumor had destroyed my forehead and had reached my brain. The biopsy result came back as a Malignant Unclassified Sarcoma. The surgeons felt certain that all the tumor was successfully removed; however, the oncologist in Baton Rouge suggested I go to MD Anderson in Houston, TX, for precautionary radiation treatments.

For seven weeks, I lived in Houston in a camper that was loaned to me by a special family member. It was so hard being away from my family, especially my husband and son (he was only two at the time). I received daily radiation treatments Monday through Friday. In February, I was finally able to return to work and normal life. I felt tumor free. I was to do follow-up appointments every three months to make sure the tumor did not return. On my second follow up (six months after completing radiation treatments) we discovered the tumor had returned. I was heartbroken and so scared. Two rounds of chemotherapy treatments were set up to begin immediately.

Next, an MRI will be taken to see if the chemo is working. Because the sarcoma is unclassified, the oncologist is not certain if the correct medication is being administered. If it is working, I will receive more treatments. If it isn't working, I have to have a second surgery. This is where we are at this point. All I can do is pray that the best will come out of all of this.



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My husband and I are so thankful to the Bright Light Foundation for selecting me as a recipient for the 2009 year. There are so many expenses placed upon people stricken with these types of illnesses that one cannot list them all. Our sincere thank you goes to each and every one of you.

God Bless You!!!

Brandy Letchworth