



Bright Light Foundation

Jeanette Forestier

2013 BLF Recipient



My name is Jeanette Forestier and I was born, raised, lived and work in Lafayette, Louisiana. I'm married to Garry Forestier. We have two children, Chad and Jessica. Both my husband and I have worked in the Oil & Gas Industry for more than 30 years.

In May 2012, I found a lump in my left breast and it prompted me to schedule my yearly mammogram early. A mammogram and ultrasound were followed by a biopsy. I am 50 years old with no family history of cancer so I really was not prepared for the call on June 2 that revealed stage 3 breast cancer. Several of my friends were diagnosed with breast cancer, so I was familiar with the road of uncertainty that was in store for me.

I chose to have bilateral mastectomies with implant reconstruction. I had that surgery in July 2012. Chemotherapy was started in August, followed by radiation in December. I developed complications with my skin during radiation and my doctor suggested a second opinion at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas, which I pursued. The result was to remove the expander on my left side and resume radiation. That process was completed at the end of March 2013.

After consulting with surgeons, my only option for further reconstruction was a flap procedure. I began the first of a three step process for this surgery with The Center for Reconstructive Breast Surgery in New Orleans, LA in August 2013. Dr. Scott Sullivan and his team are a wonderful group of professionals helping women get their life back! I strongly recommend to any woman needing post cancer breast surgery to look into this option . This team is extremely efficient in helping patients make the best decision possible.

I would also like to thank my family and friends for all the support they are offering me during my journey. Special thanks to my boss, Eddie Martien, Jr. for allowing me the gift of time to concentrate on getting well.

With love and faith in God, "I'VE GOT THIS!!!"

Thank you, Bright Light Foundation, for making me a 2013 Recipient. Your support and generosity would certainly ease the financial burden incurred by such a devastating illness.