

Shari O'Rourke



"MY SISTER WAS DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER, SO I HAD GONE DOWN TO HELP HER GET THROUGH THAT. WHEN I WAS GONE, I MISSED MY ANNUAL EXAM, AND MY SISTER TOLD ME WHEN I GO BACK, I HAVE TO RESCHEDULE BECAUSE I WAS JUST PLANNING ON GOING NEXT YEAR. I WENT IN FOR MY MAMMOGRAM THE FOLLOWING WEEK SINCE THEY HAD A CANCELLATION AND THEY FOUND THE CANCER. TWO WEEKS LATER, I HAD SURGERY. FAMILY GETS YOU THROUGH IT. EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON AND I FEEL LIKE THIS IS MY MINISTRY THAT GOD HAS PLACED ON MY SHOULDERS. I HAVE HELPED SO MANY OTHER WOMEN THROUGH THEIR EXPERIENCES. GOD HAS GIVEN ME THIS MINISTRY TO HELP OTHERS."

Mrs. Shari O'Rourke, Xavier Foundation Office Database Manager

The Resilient Women of Xavier

"MY MOM WAS DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE TWO BREAST CANCER IN JULY OF 2018. SHE GETS A MAMMOGRAM EVERY YEAR AND THIS IS HOW THE TUMOR WAS FOUND. MY MOM WENT THROUGH CHEMOTHERAPY, SURGERY AND RADIATION. AS OF TODAY, SHE IS CANCER-FREE. THE DISEASE AFFECTED MY FAMILY BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH CANCER IS PHYSICALLY WITH THAT ONE PERSON, THE EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF IT CAN BE FELT BY THE LARGER SUPPORT GROUP. 2018 AND 2019 WERE THE ROUGHEST YEARS OF MY LIFE DUE TO WATCHING A PERSON I LOVE GO THROUGH TREATMENT WITH HORRIFIC SIDE EFFECTS. IF A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND IS DIAGNOSED WITH ANY TYPE OF CANCER, THE EMOTIONAL STRESS OF IT IS OVERWHELMING."

Mrs. Tracie Marshall, Teacher Librarian



Tammy Hingtgen

Julie Schmitt



"MY MOM FIRST HAD BREAST CANCER WHEN I WAS THREE, BUT SHE WAS ABLE TO BEAT IT AND IT WENT AWAY. HER CANCER CAME BACK THE SUMMER BEFORE MY JUNIOR YEAR. SHE WAS GOING IN FOR HER YEARLY CHECKUP WHEN THE DOCTORS FOUND SOMETHING AND HAD TO DO MORE TESTS. FOR ME, THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE I WAS TOO YOUNG TO REALLY REMEMBER WHEN SHE HAD IT THE FIRST TIME. IT IS REALLY HARD ON MY ENTIRE FAMILY, BUT MY DAD ESPECIALLY. WE'VE ALL COME TOGETHER TO BE THERE FOR HER AND SUPPORT HER. SHE'S DOING REALLY WELL RIGHT NOW AND IT IS THE BEST IT COULD POSSIBLY BE. MY MOM IS MY BIGGEST INSPIRATION, SHE ALWAYS HAS BEEN."

Lizzy Schmitt '21

1 IN 8 WOMEN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER IN THEIR LIFETIME.

in the U.S.

APPROXIMATELY 275,000 WOMEN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER EVERY YEAR.

THERE ARE OVER 3.5 MILLION BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS.

“MY MOM HAD BREAST CANCER FOR THE SECOND TIME WHEN I WAS 11 YEARS OLD. AT THAT AGE, I DIDN’T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING, UNLIKE MY SISTERS WHO HAD EXPERIENCED THIS WITH MY MOM 17 YEARS EARLIER. IT AFFECTED ME EVERYDAY BECAUSE I DIDN’T UNDERSTAND IT AND IT MADE ME SCARED AND NERVOUS BECAUSE I DIDN’T KNOW WHAT THE ANSWERS TO MY QUESTIONS WOULD BE. THROUGH FAITH AND PRAYERS, MY MOM IS NOW SEVEN YEARS FREE FROM BREAST CANCER. WE WALK IN THE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU RACE EVERY YEAR AS A FAMILY. THIS HELPS BRING AWARENESS AND HELPS PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH BREAST CARE GYNECOLOGICAL CANCER SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITY.”

Blake Kellison '21



Deb Kellison

“I WAS TALKING TO MY MOM WHEN SHE GOT A CALL FROM MY GRANDMA AND IMMEDIATELY STARTED CRYING. RIGHT AFTER SHE GOT OFF THE CALL WITH HER, I ASKED HER WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY SHE WAS CRYING. THAT’S WHEN SHE TOLD ME THAT MY GRANDMA HAD BREAST CANCER. MY GRANDMA IS DOING MUCH BETTER NOW AND HAS BEEN CANCER FREE FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS. FINDING OUT THAT SHE HAD BREAST CANCER WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST MOMENTS IN MY LIFE. I REALIZED THAT LIFE IS SHORT AND SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME IN ANYONE’S LIFE. SOME ADVICE IS TO NEVER TAKE YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS FOR GRANTED BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW HOW LONG YOU HAVE THEM.”

Gracie Hines '24



Sherri Henderson

“LET YOUR *faith* BE BIGGER THAN YOUR *fear*.”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STRENGTH. WE STAND WITH YOU ALWAYS.

