



Parley

Parents And Relatives
Listening and Empathising
with You

Story

Cancer has been a part of my life since i was 4 years old. My younger brother was diagnosed at the age of 10 months with Infant Acute Lymphatic Leukemia. I was 4 at the time. He suffered for three years, in and out of the hospital..

He had a bone marrow transplant.. Full body radiation... Fungus in his kidneys... Allergies to medicines etc

He is now 15 years old and has been cancer free since 1997.

Then, my cousin was diagnosed with ALL at the age of 7 yrs old, in 2005. She had the Philidelphia Chromosome, so they immediately did a bone marrow transplant on her. She was in the hospital for about a year.

Then in June of 2008, i discover I had cancer. I was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma in July 2008. It was very difficult for me not to worry. And i hated putting my mother and my family through the agony and pain of having me in that situation. It was hard, a big set back. I thought, why me? Why now? It was my senior year in high school. I had just turned 18. Very painful. I felt as if my life was being taken away from me, put into a situation that i just had to face.. I had to fight this. It was so very hard.

Our house was not in good condition.I would be exposed to germs and other bacteria. We were in the middle of remodeling it, which has since been postponed yet again, due to medical bills. I had to stay with my aunt. I had to be home- schooled for half of my senior year. I was isolated from all of my friends, my family. It is just one of the hardest things to go through.

I was done with treatment October 2008. But I will say this.. It would have been 100 times harder if i didn't have the support that i had.

I believe i wouldn't have been so successful if i had to do it alone.

Another thing that kept me going, were the children with cancer, who were also suffering. I met so many people during treatment, and i heard so many different stories and struggles. It was inspiring to see, some children, whom had a worse cancer than i, whom got hours of chemo, smile. Smile like if nothing was wrong. Smiling through the day. Cancer effects so many people and others don't have the support and love that others get. No one knows how it feels, until you yourself have gone through it. You learn so much and gain the strength you never had.

I hope my story has helped someone, anyone out there.. To let them know, there are people who care, there are people who know what you are going through, & there is a way...:)

