

I had gone in for my annual mammogram in July and was not expecting anything out of the normal. When they called me and asked me to come back in for a biopsy, you can imagine how shocked I was. Skip to August 24, 2018, when I went in to see Dr. Harris at the St. Vincent Women's Center to find out my results and he tells me, "It's invasive ductal carcinoma, Stage 1." Of course I cried and thought no, not me! I let it sink in and thought of five years prior when my mom was diagnosed, and realized I am strong like her and I will get through this!

I appreciated very much how the staff at the Women's Center were all very supportive as I was alone for my diagnosis. I saw Dr. Saldanha, my surgeon, took my husband and my friend Annie with me. We were there for over two hours while she discussed all my options with the three of us. On October 23, 2018, I had a partial mastectomy oncoplasty with bilateral reduction. I did not have to go through chemo, but I did have 19 rounds of radiation which I finished on January 30, 2019.

After my diagnosis, Annie told me about LBP and said so many wonderful things about them. She suggested I come to a meeting and see if it was something that would interest me. I am so happy that I did! I wouldn't want just anyone to join this group, only those that are like us, that have been cursed with this disease. I have learned a lot, made new friends, and it feels comforting to be able to talk with women who have gone through this struggle. This group of people are the best!

Fast forward to August 2019, I had my first mammogram and sonogram since the diagnosis. I am very happy to say I am cancer free!!

~ Robin Redinger
Erie, PA