

Survivor Spotlight

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Anne Barranco



Anne in her own words...

After having a routine physical in April 2007, I was told that I had rectal cancer. When I first heard this diagnosis, I knew I had a long road ahead of me and I would need to depend on my family, friends and faith for support. The treatment would consist of radiation and chemotherapy followed by a surgery months later to remove what is left of the tumor.

In early June, I was struggling. I was worn down both mentally and physically because of the treatments. I was admitted to the hospital, where I would remain for over three weeks with a drastically low white blood count and other critical complications associated with the chemo/radiation treatments. Being in the hospital for that amount of time was my scariest moment – I kept telling everybody that I was dying. I fully believe that God was with me every step of the way – my family kept telling me that I had to have faith and keep praying. My biggest source of strength came from my family and friends who stayed by my side throughout the entire time. My co-workers at New Beacon Hospice were also a constant strength for me – visiting me and encouraging me every step of the way. The power of prayer is mighty strong, and I really think that it got me through this – it saved me.

It has now been six months since my surgery, and all is going well. I feel as though I have beat this, and, so long as I continue to have regular checkups with the doctor and follow his instructions, I will be cancer free. I now live each day to its fullest and have a new outlook on life. I can't wait to see what the future holds – I want to be around for those special moments. Faith is a powerful thing...embrace it and hold it close to you.