

LIFE IS SWEET

on the Other Side of Cancer

Christine Vozar recently capped off another busy holiday season. The entrepreneurial mother prepares handmade holiday candy trays for corporations and craft fairs and sells a women's clothing line from her home. That's on top of shuttling her girls to and from gymnastics competitions and soccer tournaments. Breast cancer didn't fit into the game plan for this busy mom.

But, there it was, a shocking diagnosis from a 3D mammogram performed at the Breast Center at Southwest General in April 2015. The woman who'd been healthy all her life suddenly faced an onslaught of appointments and treatment decisions.

"Your whole life flashes before you," says Christine, recalling the time of her diagnosis.

Team Support

A biopsy at Southwest General's Breast Center, scheduled through the Breast Patient Navigation Program immediately after diagnosis, showed stage two breast cancer. Christine's entire support team rallied as she launched into a four-month course of chemotherapy through University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center at Southwest General. Friends brought food and carpooled her young daughters, and her husband and extended family stepped up too. Her caregivers (nurses, social workers and a team of specialized physicians led by Jennifer Muller, MD, a board-certified hematologist/oncologist on the Medical Staff at Southwest General) coordinated appointments on her behalf, followed up post treatment and offered compassion and encouragement.

During chemotherapy treatments, Christine chatted with nurses about weekend plans. That was the kind of personal touch that kept her going.

"They kept my morale up and treated me like a friend," Christine says.

When her treatment came to a crossroads, radiation therapy or double mastectomy, they ensured that she fully understood the various treatment options and supported her in her decision to undergo a double mastectomy.

After surgery, Christine entrusted her ongoing care to Southwest General, where she found continuity of care across specialty teams and unconditional compassion. Plus, it's where her daughters were born and is conveniently located close to her Brunswick home.

"I was never lost," she says. "There was so much to keep track of, and they always reminded me of appointments."

Life Gets a Makeover

In Oct. 2016, Christine was nominated by her Southwest General caregivers for a makeover at the **Southwest General/SouthPark Mall Breast Cancer Survivor Makeover Day**.

Her pampering included a fresh hairstyle and make-up, a new outfit and dinner.

Today, Christine lives with a newfound appreciation for the fullness of her life: the warm sun, friends who've showed the depth of their love, two active girls and a vacation cruise on the horizon.

For more information on breast care services provided at Southwest General, call Health Connection at **440-816-5050** or visit swgeneral.com/breast-center.



Christine Vozar (left) with her husband and daughters.

NOW
is the time
to get your 
MAMMOGRAM
TO SCHEDULE
an appointment,
 call
440-816-8605