

I came to know and love Linked By Pink about 9 years ago, in 2008. I received a call from Norma Zimmer, one of the founding members. She had asked if we would donate to their very first fundraiser; the 2009 calendar. I said yes right away and actually hosted a little event to help them. Despite the rain and cold we did well and I met two wonderful women, Norma and Heather.

Flash forward 8 years later and I was faced with the possibility of having Breast Cancer at 41 years old. It was confirmed on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. One of the first people I thought of to call was Norma. She was helpful, comforting and led me in the right direction. She met with me and brought a beautiful bag full of goodies to comfort me. And it did! We sat and talked about the diagnosis and she gave me great advice.

In June of 2016 I attended my first Linked By Pink meeting and was welcomed into the group like we've known each other forever. These women have become my support, my prayer warriors, and hopefully lifelong friends. The group does more than just meet once a month, we go out on fun outings around town and some of the ladies bring you food, cards, gift cards and blankets. Becky Maxson and Norma volunteer so much of their own time to make sure we are helped, that we have fun and laugh! The meetings are so helpful and great because you're getting firsthand advice from women that have experienced this. It is difficult and hard to process all the information you get at all the different doctor offices and medical reports. They make you feel comfortable and you can say anything!

I recently was re-diagnosed in June of 2017 with Metastatic Breast cancer to the liver, Stage 4. It was definitely a blow to our world again. The future is not clear but I know I have those ladies, my family and friends to count on and help me through this. Linked By Pink is the best support group. It's local and always there for you.

Sincerely with love,

~Laura Drabic

Erie, PA