

Tackle adversity head-on, suggests cancer survivor

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

When faced with adversity, tackle it, don't run.

That's what Kate Sumners wanted her children, ages 6, 8 and 10, to see when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005.

Eight years later, she jumped at the opportunity to tell her story during Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October.

A mere 15 days passed from the time Sumners found the lump to the day she had a double mastectomy. Ten days later, she met her goal of walking her youngest daughter, Lauren, into school as the school year began. Eight harsh doses of chemo followed.

In 2010, just getting ready to celebrate her 5th cancer-free anniversary, devastating PET scan results revealed that Sumners' cancer had metastasized. A lung biopsy confirmed that she had lung cancer.

This time it took 18 rounds of chemo and Sumners managed to continue in full-time employment.

Bald and without fingernails, midway through her chemo treatments, Sumners said her boss told her she should start dating.

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