

Vranizan Family Overwhelmed with Great Response



Donna and her children, before her cancer

SUBMITTED BY:
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Thank you all for the generosity and kindness that you have shown Jennifer Vranizan. We received over 70 cards and phone calls offering help. Each of you have made Jennifer's financial struggle a bit easier.

Just like you, last August I didn't know who Jennifer Vranizan was.

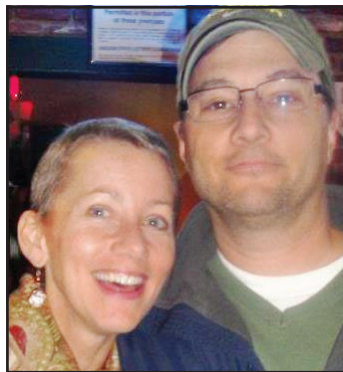
As a cancer survivor, I had just come through 11 medical procedures and surgeries, chemo, hair loss and the whole ugly mess. During my struggles many people helped my family and me. At first it was hard to accept dinners being delivered and our kids being taxied back and forth from school and activities. But as I got sicker, I put my pride

on hold and reached out to grab the lifeline of support these friends offered to me.

When I got well, I had a need to pay it all back and find someone I could help. The answer was Jennifer Vranizan. I heard about the horrible cancer that she had and went to her house to meet her and offer her my scarves, hats and other trappings she might need for her upcoming cancer battle. I tried to offer her words of encouragement, but, knowing what lay ahead of her, I am sure I just babbled and blinked a lot to try to hold back the tears.

As I left her house, I knew I had done something to help, but it didn't feel like enough. I could have sent a check to the American Cancer Society, but that felt too removed. How could I help someone who was in my own community, was a parent at my children's school, was someone I now knew? Maybe you felt the same thing after reading the last article? Maybe you know someone who has or had cancer. Whatever 'flipped the switch for you,' thank you for your generosity.

Last night, our family and another family that had helped with the garage sale that we held to raise money for Jennifer, went to visit Jennifer. We delivered to her the money that we raised and the cards and letters that you sent. Jennifer looks battle weary, one side of her face is still paralyzed, she has the medical ports and hair-do of a chemo patient, but she still has that spark. She told us that she is eating a diet of raw food (and pointed to the kitchen table covered in containers of sprouts and other green leafy stuff) and was feeling well enough that her doctors have approved her to get a stem cell transplant. That medical procedure is no walk in the park, but Jennifer and



Jennifer and Tim, 2012, before her cancer came back

her family are taking it hour by hour. Given how far Jennifer has come

(when the doctors had said the fight was over), I know that your prayers and kindness are making a difference. As her husband Tim says, "Jenny is an amazing woman and a living miracle!"

Too many people get cancer. Too many people with cancer die. I don't know how to cure cancer, but I know that we can each make a difference in a cancer patient's life by offering them a helping hand. You have made a difference in Jennifer's life. Thank you for offering a helping hand to Jennifer. Last night Jennifer told me that, while she felt nauseous from the medicine she was taking, seeing all that is being done for her, she is invigorated to get healthy so she can pay it back and help someone else.

Maybe, we don't get sick as punishment or for some reason personal to ourselves. Maybe, some of us get sick so that others can offer us help and get to feel the joy and surge of happiness that comes with giving to others.



Jennifer, 9/10/2012, first day of treatment for stem cell transplant



Vranizan family 2011



Vranizan kids, Labor Day 2012

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**If you would like to donate, please send your check to:
Jennifer Vranizan, PO Box 3242,
Tualatin, OR 97062,
or deposit donations directly to
Chase bank, Acct # 3034276294.**