## Power of the human spirit

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Cancer. What an ugly diagnosis to be stricken with at any age. I know because I am a cancer survivor of eight years. I have witnessed the best in people in the sense of their caring nature and tremendous hearts. As an educator, the support has been unbelievable. From my hometown of St. Maries to Lakeside to Sandpoint to Kootenai, I could not have dreamed how many good-hearted souls would care for us through this trying time. It is truly mind-blowing. My family, friends, co-workers, church family, and the countless others; I can't thank you enough. You have made this journey that much more endurable.

This statement may shock some of you, but cancer has actually been a blessing for me. With that I mean the little things that used to sit on my shoulder, I can now brush off. Life is too short to hold onto those grudges. And it sure put things into proper perspective. Cancer has opened my eyes to what's really important and what is not. It feels great! My personal challenge is for you to look at your life and enjoy what is good and find good in what is not. The human spirit is so powerful. There is so much value in keeping a positive and hopeful attitude. It has been quite a fight with all of the radiation and especially the chemotherapy; but cancer will never ultimately win. I have an amazing group of people in my corner. Bring it on!