



HEALING HOPE

Because I am still alive:

- *I witnessed the birth of my grandchild.*
- *I watched my daughter graduate college.*
- *I attended my daughter's wedding this spring.*
- *I am grateful for the time God has given me to reach such great milestones in my life.*

"A positive attitude is the very best medicine."

- Linda Harrison

SURVIVOR

Two time cancer survivor Linda Harrison shares her story on Page 6.

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★ Linda Harrison ★

Successful ...

— CANCER —
SURVIVOR²

On May 18, 2018 Linda Harrison retired from Bi-Mart after 31 years of service. During her tenure, she helped open the store in Sutherlin and went on to work there for 21-1/2 years. Prior to that, she worked at the Roseburg store for nearly 10 years. While at work in Sutherlin on December 29, 2003, she received a call from her doctor informing her she had ductal carcinoma in her breast. The tumor was 11cm in size. Dr. O'Neil, at The Community Cancer Center met with Linda to discuss her options. Triple negative ductal carcinoma



is a highly aggressive form of breast cancer with an estimated 20% survival rate. No time could be spared before treatment

"I detected the lump while doing a routine self-exam, so I was not surprised when I got the diagnosis. However, when I officially got the news I was shocked and scared. Dr. O'Neil was very helpful in explaining what actions needed to be taken and what to expect. He was so positive and uplifting it helped relieve my fear," Linda explained.

Linda was a single mother of 2 with one daughter still in high school. Her treatment plan included chemo therapy to reduce the size of the tumor, followed by a mastectomy, followed by radiation therapy. Armed with a positive attitude and her deep faith in God she began her first chemotherapy treatment on December 30, 2003, the day after meeting with Dr. O'Neil. Several weeks into her chemotherapy treatment Linda was losing her hair and was victim to severe fatigue, just as Dr. O'Neil had predicted. Linda's daughter Ashley stepped in to help. "Ashley, who was 18 at the time, took care of everything for me. Our church, the Roseburg Alliance Church, and my colleagues at Bi-Mart helped raise money so we could pay our bills because I could not work until after recovering from the surgery which took place in mid-April of 2004. I am so very grateful for my family and friends," she said. The chemotherapy worked as planned, Linda's tumor was reduced to 3cm. Her following mastectomy was also successful and along with the tumor 12 lymph nodes were removed with only one being cancerous. As Linda recovered from her surgery she could feel her body starting to get stronger and all that remained was five weeks of radiation therapy to complete her treatment plan. "The radiation therapy delivered by Dr. Lienert left me slightly fatigued but was far less than with chemotherapy," she said. Linda was released to work on June 1, 2004. She beat the odds, and was very thankful to attend her daughter Ashley's High School graduation.

Through routine 90 day screenings conducted at The Community Cancer Center a new tumor was detected in August of 2006. This tumor was located under her collarbone near her lung requiring a delicate

surgical procedure which was conducted in October of 2006. After surgery, Linda faced 8 more weeks of chemotherapy followed by six weeks of radiation therapy.

Linda's final radiation therapy treatment took place in April of 2007. "I lost my hair again and knew what to expect. With the continued help of my family, church and friends we got through it a second time," she explained with great emotion.

Linda had been given only a slight reprieve between cancer incidents. How does someone endure such a test? Fortunately, this time Linda was able to work every other week, and each of the treatment procedures prescribed by Dr. O'Neil fell into place as planned. In April of 2007 Linda completed her last radiation therapy treatment and was once again declared cancer free. "Losing my hair was difficult, which I believe is especially hard for a woman. Douglas County Cancer Services (DCCS) at the time was located across the street from the old cancer center off Harvard Avenue in Roseburg. The people at DCCS provided me wigs and cosmetic assistance. I learned that I looked pretty good with auburn hair, which was uplifting. I am so very grateful for all the kindness I experienced at The Community Cancer Center and with Douglas County Cancer Services. The quality of care I received was simply amazing I would not have gone anywhere else," Linda expressed with great sincerity.

Nearly 13 years later, Linda enjoys her retirement by volunteering for Douglas County Cancer Services, now located on the new Community Cancer Center campus. For the past seven years her daughter Ashley has been employed by The Community Cancer Center as a Certified Medical Assistant (NCMA) working in radiation oncology.

Dr. Moore now oversees Linda's screenings and coordinated care. He always finds a way to fit her in to address any concerns she might encounter.