Mary is a breast cancer survivor and this is her story.

At a young age Mary was encouraged by Mr. Brober, a local track coach, to get involved with competing in track. “Track gave me an opportunity to attend college and compete on the University of Oregon Track team. I specialized in high hurdles, long jump and triple jump. It was an awesome experience.”

Mary graduated with a double major in psychology and sociology and following college entered the real estate profession in 1996. “2013 had just ended and my husband and I had just come off our best year ever in business, we could not have asked for anything to be better.”

In early January of 2013, Mary noticed a small lump under her arm. She immediately had the lump examined, biopsied, and it tested positive for cancer. “When you get news like this it’s like a roller coaster emotionally.” Mary immersed herself in learning about cancer and with guidance from her doctors chose chemotherapy, surgery and then radiation therapy as her treatment plan. “I started chemo treatments every other week from March through July. I altered my eating to more healthy foods and prepared myself for the journey. The first chemo treatments were the worst.

My athletic training helped me develop a routine that prepared me mentally to remain positive. Each day was a struggle to organize and meet the schedule for the day ahead. I did not want to be the “sick” one at home dealing with cancer so I kept working throughout my treatment plan.” After chemo, the surgery and radiation treatments went smoothly and her treatment plan was completed in October of 2014. Six months later Mary’s follow up cancer screening was negative. She was cancer free.

Mary’s husband Brad works in the golf business. He and his colleagues created a charity golf tournament in her name and last year they donated $9,500 to the Treva Hoffman Foundation to assist in cancer research. The tournament is now an annual event and the proceeds will be donated to help cancer patients with the psychological impact of the disease.

“My experience at the Community Cancer Center was great. They did an excellent job preparing me for the whole process. I could tell each doctor and staff member sincerely cared about me as a person and a patient, it’s a patient first culture. It is refreshing to experience that level of care five minutes from my home. For me, the most important thing about dealing with cancer is having a team of cancer specialists that educate and involve you in the process.”

Today, Mary continues to be one of the highest producing real estate brokers in our area and has rejoined her bowling league where she is quite competitive.