



# Windi Warner

Successful ...

— CANCER —  
**SURVIVOR**

**W**indi Warner is a two-time breast cancer survivor. Beyond her own battles, cancer also struck her father-in-law and later her stepson William. When talking with Windi you will quickly discover she's quite special and this is her story.

In 2007 while raising a family in Northern California, Windi was diagnosed with breast cancer as a result of a routine screening. "My tumor was small, less than the size of a pencil eraser. At the time, there was a new treatment procedure that is now called a SAVI treatment. It worked, it was fast and the tumor was removed with a biopsy needle once treated. It was kind of surreal, I didn't have to go through chemo and the side effects were very minimal," she explained.

After her daughter graduated high school Windi and Eric Warner were married. Eric has two sons and a new family was created when Windi moved to Myrtle Creek, Oregon in 2012. "It's absolutely beautiful here. We are a family who spends as much time as possible in the outdoors" Windi said.

"We lost Eric's father to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in April of 2014. It was a late stage treatment and an arduous battle. In January of 2015, they found a lump in my breast through a local 3D mammogram screening. After receiving my biopsy report I learned the lump was malignant and went to see Dr. Ottenheimer. He suggested I see a surgeon" she said. A month prior to her diagnosis Windi had attended a Breast Cancer Awareness Conference at the Community Cancer Center. The keynote speakers were two surgeons who explained in their presentation that in situations like Windi's they were recommending double mastectomies. The information prompted Windi to do the

research. She consulted medical journals, met with doctors and talked with her family before making her decision. Ten days later Windi was admitted for a double mastectomy. "Recovery was very painful. I spent a month in a chair because you cannot lie down until all the drains are removed. It was a painful recovery due to spasms that naturally occur while healing. The good news was that all my margins came back clear and while on the phone with the nurse she mentioned that the surgeon wanted to speak with me. Later that evening I received a call. The doctor explained that while in surgery they found a lump in the non-cancerous breast that was highly aggressive. A week later I went back for an outpatient operation to remove lymph nodes as a precaution. Over the next six months reconstructive procedures were performed" Windi explained.

A month after Windi's surgery her 19 year-old stepson William was diagnosed with testicular cancer. William's treatment involved chemotherapy and an eight-hour surgery.

When asked what Windi would say if she were to offer advice to those who have not experienced cancer she recommended to make certain that you participate in regular screenings. If you are diagnosed with cancer do your research and find a team of doctors that talk with you in terms that you can understand. She also said, "I could not have done this without my family. My husband slept on the floor beside me. My daughter Megan and granddaughter Rosalie stayed with us to help out. Family is huge part of your team."

Today, William is studying at Umpqua Community College and also preparing for a trophy elk hunting trip.

Windi is learning to fire her new "300 Blackout" rifle left handed and planning their next outdoor adventure.