

Tori Morgan

How cancer has impacted my life. I'm trying to get back to myself before cancer. Currently I'm in my third year of attending school at the University of Southern Indiana. Before cancer I thought I knew exactly who I was and where I was going with my life. NOT!! Words can't describe the affect cancer had on my life. Cancer affected me mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially. What other tests do I have to pass I wondered? Cancer ahs been a struggle, but I am a fighter. When my cancer started I would say I fell into a deep depression. Because of the way I looked I did not want to go outside and fact the same questions I was asked daily. What is wrong with your eye? I began to wonder if I should even consider the teaching profession, because I didn't think I would ever look normal again. I gained so much weight from the treatments, and the surgeries.

This all began in October of 2002, and I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (MALT) in April of 2003. During this time I saw many doctors who had no idea what was going on with my eye. I needed a specialist, and I was referred to a doctor in Carmel, Indiana. He practices in Terre Haute once a month so I would drive there form Evansville to meet him for my appointments. I had to travel so much. For the most part I was alone, my family was back in Anderson, and I was here at college with no-one to go to the doctor with me. Even though I have been through all this I realize how important everyone is that comes into my life. I was doing so bad that I finally left school to come home. I don't feel like I was sent home for no reason. My sister has MS, and she was doing really bad. I came home to take care of her. Plus the daycare that I work at called me and asked me if I could come in and work for a co-worker who lost her baby. G-d sent me home for those reasons.

I still have so many fears of this coming back, or developing another kind of cancer. I always wondered if I would make it through this experience. Through this test I have learned so much. I wish I could help people that never had anything life-threatening happen to them see things from my point of view. I look halfway normal again and I have to wear glasses now. This summer I plan to have surgery to fix my eyelids. I didn't realize all the things that I took for granted until now when at times like these I reflect, and look back at the past year, and see how much I've changed and became an adult. I am a better person, a learner, a teacher, a friend, a supporter, a survivor.

Thank you,

Tori R. Morgan