

Survivor

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look healthy for a while. I might lose my hair, lose weight and look very tired, but I'm still going to be me. I told them it was okay to be angry and sad because I was angry and sad too." She knew she couldn't give up the fight for their sake, and told them she needed their help to do it. She had to rest and focus on getting well.

The next difficult task was to tell her mother who had recently lost Cindy's dad to cancer. Her mother was devastated, but turned a mother's love into action to support her daughter in any way she could. Cindy called her two sisters who live out of town to tell them what happened and to make sure they had recent mammograms.

Cindy knew she was going to need an extensive support system to get through this time in her life. Before she had the chance to ask for anything, help came from all directions. "My husband led the charge at home to take care of the children, clean, cook and work full time. The boys rose to the challenge and helped their dad with many of the household jobs. My sons were very protective of me when we would go shopping. They would guard my right side as we passed other people and would sit with me on the mall benches when I needed a rest.

"My church family was unbelievable. The members and friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas were wonderful to me and my family. They brought food, called every day, sent cards, and most importantly, prayed for us."

Along with support, Cindy received plenty of good advice, including some that helped her plan for unexpected consequences.

"A friend of mine, who is a nurse, explained so many things to me and helped me prepare ahead of time for my return home after my surgery. I never would have thought of getting a wig ahead of time so that the wig maker could match it to my hair color and texture. I was grateful when I had on hand a large supply of front closure pajamas and blouses because I couldn't raise my arms above my head.

"My oncologist and the nursing staff were wonderful to me. They



Cindy Kreidler, a breast cancer survivor, sits in her dining room, which is decorated with family photos.

were understanding and sympathetic, but wouldn't tolerate my weak moments when I thought I couldn't go through with the second round of chemotherapy."

We sat in her dining room for this interview. She was surrounded by several pictures of her family. "I'm determined to live for my children," she said. "They are only 15 and 12. I have a job to do. I don't have the final say, but I'm not ready to go yet."

Cindy has waged the good fight. "Everything is fine now," she said, "and we are under a five-year watch. I feel good. My older son and I went to Washington in June to participate in the national capital Race for the Cure. It was overwhelming to see 70,000 people dedicated to one cause. My son was very impressed. We want to go every year."

Back in Dallas, her friend, Karen Sassaman, was putting

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Cindy Kreidler
Cancer survivor

together a group of 24 people to join in the Race for the Cure in Scranton on September 16. The participants include the pastor and parishioners from Trinity Presbyterian Church, some of their friends, Cindy's sister and son.

The race is designed to support women who have had breast cancer, to raise the awareness level and to raise funds to continually fight to win the battle against this disease.

The group will assemble at the

church at 7 a.m. on Saturday, then depart for Courthouse Square in downtown Scranton to participate in the 10th annual Race for the Cure being held there. More than 10,000 participants are expected. If you want to join the race, you can call the Northeastern PA Komen Foundation at 1-800-650-CURE.

Cindy would like everyone to know that she did have yearly mammograms. This tumor was discovered nine months after her last x-ray. She wants to encourage everyone to do self-examinations. "Do whatever you can to catch cancer in its early stages," she said.

The best part about Cindy's story is that she will join her friends on September 16 as a participant in the race. They will be racing with her, not for her. Therein lies the victory!

Music

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1981," said Reinert. Reinert and Lynch have been singing together for 26 years. Lynch's wife Mary is also a member of the group.

"We've been friends more than anything else. We never intended to be stars." For Reinert, music is about more than singing or playing guitar. "It has been a door to a lot of good relationships. Only positive things have come from it," Reinert said.

Anzalone has practiced medicine in his office on Huntsville Road for 23 years, and he has been board certified in family medicine since 1977. He has been on staff at Nesbitt Hospital, Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and Mercy Hospital since 1977. In 1997 he also joined the staff of Geisinger health care system. Anzalone was responsible for creating an advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) program at Nesbitt, which was the first in the southern tier of the Wyoming Valley. He is also school doctor for several area schools and universities.

Reinert found success in the teaching profession. He started as a teacher, and has moved up through the system to become assistant principal at Dallas High School. He's currently pursuing a doctorate in human development with a specialization in education administration. This will allow him to continue his career as an administrator, but not as a superintendent. "I don't want my kids to say 'Daddy's in a meeting,'" Reinert has three children, aged 10, 8, and 5.

Even though Anzalone and Reinert have been successful in their chosen fields, the passion to perform never left them. After seeing the Kingston Trio play in the late 80s, the Anzalone brothers started performing again, and played shows throughout the 1990s. "We have 63 songs that are audio or video worthy," said Anzalone. The Anzalone Brothers and Company created a compilation of their best songs for a special aired August 22 on WVIA TV. Ange acted as producer for the show, getting sponsors, lining up talent, and writing and editing the show. "The program features some of the best songs from the WVIA shows," he said.

In 1995, the path of the two groups crossed. The Anzalone

"It has been a door to a lot of good relationships. Only positive things have come from it."

Paul Reinert

Musician and ass't principal

brothers asked Reinert to perform with them after Reverend Don Lyons, a long-time member, moved away. "I was familiar with the band and the people," Reinert said.

"Just Us" had performed with the Anzalone Brothers, and Jim Anzalone and Reinert's father had worked together in the Luzerne County Public Defender's office. Reinert has known the Anzalone brothers for about 10 years, and considers himself an unofficial member of the Anzalone Brothers and Company, and his relationship with the Anzalone brothers as more than professional. "Joe and I are friends first," he said. "Performance is an extension of our friendship."

Time and personal changes have taken their toll on both groups. When Jim Anzalone moved to Florida, Anzalone Brothers and Company stopped performing. Reinert said "Just Us" has cut back on their playing schedule since he's become an administrator. They now play only three or four times a month.

Both Anzalone and Reinert agree that being musicians has affected their day jobs. "I'm a happier doctor," said Anzalone. "I have a better sense of humor. I'm more interested in what my patients do, especially if it's music, radio, television and live performance."

"It's hard to hide from the students," said Reinert. He performed at the school's Christmas show last year. "It shows a side of me some people don't have," said Reinert. The kids see me as more than an administrator."

Both Anzalone and Reinert are happy to have found a hobby that has brought so much joy into their lives. "Just Us" is just a bunch of regular folks," said Reinert. "We play music that all ages can enjoy."

Emmanuel church youth programs

Emmanuel Assembly of God Church will offer Youth programs: Royal Rangers, (boys); Missionets, (girls); Ages 2-18. Based on Biblical values, these programs encourage children and teens to develop talent, morals, and a relationship with God. Call the church at 639-5858. We are located at Church Rd. 1/4 mile from Lake-Noxen Elementary School, Harveys Lake. The group meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the lower auditorium.

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