

# Julie M. Hudson, MSN, RN

BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR



@BOSOMTHING

*"And let us not grow weary of doing good,  
for in due season we will reap,  
if we do not give up.  
So then, as we have opportunity,  
let us do good to everyone..."  
Galatians 6:9-10a*

*Hi there!*

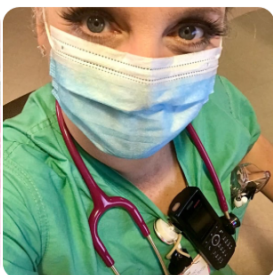
My name is Julie. My two biggest roles: Mom to an amazing son and nurse. I spent most of my career working in the Neonatal ICU and I now work as a legal nurse analyst. In my spare time, I enjoy painting and other creative arts, movies/television, hiking, spending time at the beach, hanging out with family, and volunteering.

I was diagnosed with early stage breast cancer (Stage 0 DCIS) in January, 2017 on my first screening mammogram. Because of early detection, my cancer was able to be treated completely surgically. I had my bilateral mastectomy with DIEP Flap reconstruction in March, 2017 on my 41st birthday and woke up cancer-free! Two more procedures that year, and I officially graduated from the reconstructive stage in December, 2017. I was released from my 5 years of oncology surveillance in April, 2022!

As soon as I was diagnosed, I began looking for "real" stories from survivors and found that there weren't a lot of women sharing what it was really like. So, I decided that I needed to be that voice of truth and hope. I began blogging about my journey and sharing on social media. I recall praying one night and just asking the Lord to "use me in this". I didn't understand why I had to have cancer, but I knew I needed and wanted it to be used for His glory and to help others....even if it was just one other woman who was helped by my story.

I volunteered as a patient advocate with my surgeon's office and started participating in events like the Komen Race, Paint the Parkway Pink, and Women in Medicine & Law to raise awareness. A friend invited me to join a volunteer committee with the American Cancer Society and I have now been with them for 5 years, I was also a small group leader in a workshop ministry for breast cancer survivors called Overcomers for a couple of years. It was through them that I first heard about Thrivewell. I attended the Thrivewell Annual Luncheon and was so impressed by everything I heard and all of the resources Thrivewell can provide to men and women in our city who are currently battling cancer or are in survivorship. I joined Thrivewell and my favorite activity is the monthly Artful Healing. I love trying new artistic endeavors and hanging out with others who understand the journey.

My family is facing a new threat this year as my younger brother is fighting advanced stage pancreatic cancer. We know that God has a plan for him but it is often difficult to see in the midst of sickness and pain and treatments. This is why volunteering, fundraising, and advocating is so important to me. I am a survivor of 6+ years but not everyone wins his/her battle. That is why I continue to volunteer with Thrivewell and with ACS so that they can provide assistance to those in the battle and help fund the research needed to finally beat this beast.



Early detection saves lives!