

# HopeLine

connecting you to a network of support

## Mission Statement

*Hope for Two...  
The Pregnant with  
Cancer Network is  
an organization  
dedicated to  
providing women  
diagnosed with cancer  
while pregnant with  
information, support  
and hope.*

## Guiding Values

*We serve women of all  
socioeconomic, ethnic and  
religious backgrounds  
world-wide. Volunteers  
with a history of cancer  
while pregnant are the  
mainstays of our support  
network. We strive to  
remove barriers to  
women obtaining  
complete and accurate  
information about their  
options for dealing with  
cancer while pregnant.*

*We respect and  
support every woman's  
personal decisions  
without judgement.*



Hope for two  
the pregnant with cancer network

## Message from the Chairwoman

*Patty Murray...*

*Prune Back to Flourish*

EVERYWHERE I GO I HEAR COMMON REFRAINS: "I'M SO TIRED; I HAVE too much to do; I don't have enough time to pack it all in and still have quality family time, 'me time', or just plain old 'down time'." I've given these sentiments much thought lately since I believe they are growing louder and more frequent. A few years back, I wrote an article entitled "Lesson Learned", which focused on not having to do "it all" (with "all" being the activities that fill up our lives). But recently, I took a step back and wondered, maybe, just maybe, we simply just have too much to do. Instead of resigning ourselves to the fact that we cannot do it all, we should be proactive and pare down our commitments. Perhaps then we can feel accomplished when we complete our shorter task list and leave time for what is truly significant.

However, just contemplating the paring process makes some break out in a cold sweat. While wanting less on their plate and not to be on the vicious treadmill, they feel that nothing can be cut out. But I will revert to a garden analogy again where cutting back reaps great rewards. This spring, I will step outside and do what will seem counterintuitive- to prune back and tear out so as to have healthier, more abundant plants and a more organized garden.

With pruning shears and spade in hand, I will reluctantly begin my job of pruning back my many rose bushes and dividing, then sharing, my perennials. I am reticent because they were such a part of last year's beauty. What's left looks pretty scary, barren, and downright ugly. However, as in past years, after such a cleaning out, a symphony of colors will emerge from my Fairy Rose Bushes, Irises, Coral Bells, and Salvia. The hard work of pruning and discarding will pay off this summer with less time gardening and more time to enjoy its beauty.

I've found this lesson to hold true in our lives as well. Over the years, I have heard so many stories that highlight this message. One of them came from a long forgotten grammar school friend who contacted me after she was frozen in fear from her recent Breast Cancer diagnosis. She literally

See **MESSAGE** continued on page 5.



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# my story

## Liz Hyatt & Jill Parks

*real stories of women diagnosed with cancer during pregnancy*

TOLD BY LIZ HYATT AND JILL PARKS, WRITTEN BY JODIE ORZECOWSKI

LIZ HYATT AND JILL PARKS HAVE SO much in common. Both were diagnosed with ovarian cancer at the beginning of their second trimester. Both were pregnant with their second child. They had identical treatment plans. Both underwent chemotherapy while pregnant. Both gave birth to healthy babies via cesarean section. Both are cancer free.

### PART I: *Liz's Story*

LIZ HYATT LIVES IN CENTRAL NEW York with her husband, Arthur, and their three sons, John, Will and Nicholas. She's a wife, a mom, a daughter, a sister, an aunt, a friend, and an ovarian cancer survivor. Her life changing story began in September of 2005, when she discovered she was expecting her second child.



A month later, on October 28 at 13 weeks pregnant, she began having terrible pain on her right side. As the pain worsened, she thought it was a problem with her gall bladder. Four days after the pain began, she saw her primary care doctor.

After an inconclusive sonogram that showed a mass, she saw her obstetrician. The obstetrician thought it was kidney stones, but a second sonogram that measured the mass and checked the baby was still inconclusive. She was

sent to a surgeon, who ordered an MRI of her abdomen and pelvis. After the MRI, the surgeon recommended that the mass, which was the size of a grapefruit and most likely a benign tumor, be removed to avoid the risk of rupture.

At 14 weeks pregnant, Liz went under anesthesia for the major abdominal surgery required to remove the tumor.

"When I woke up my husband was there, looking at me very oddly. I finally got it out of him that it was free floating ovarian cancer, unrelated to my ovaries or my stomach. I swore. Then I said, 'I knew it. I had a feeling.' My next thought was, oh my God, I'm pregnant! I asked Art, 'What about the baby?' He said, 'It doesn't look good.'"

She would have to terminate the baby.

"WILL IS A MIRACLE TO ME,  
BUT HE'S NOT A MEDICAL  
MIRACLE, HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE,  
AND SO MANY MORE BABIES ARE  
SAVED BECAUSE WE KNOW IT'S  
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WHILE PREGNANT."

Her obstetrician, oncologist and the surgeon all agreed it was probable. She just couldn't risk her life for an unborn baby when she already had a one-year-old and a husband to care for. During recovery from the surgery they checked the fetal heart rate regularly and she thought, "Stop torturing me! I don't want to hear a heartbeat if I'm going to terminate this baby."

A few days after the surgery, Liz met with the head of Obstetrics at University Hospital in Syracuse. He didn't feel the same about aborting the baby. He asked them for some time to do research.

After Thanksgiving, Liz and Art received the news. The research on mothers who underwent chemotherapy treatment while pregnant noted prematurity as a possible side effect, but overall the babies were unharmed.

"I feel regret, fear, anxiety and guilt for those feelings of needing to terminate the baby," said Liz. "But given the moment and the circumstances, it made sense."

She began a regimen which consisted of four rounds of three types of chemotherapy shortly before Christmas. She finished the treatment before her due date in May 2006.



As her due date approached, her doctors informed her she would deliver via planned cesarean and she would be under anesthesia during the birth.

"What do you mean you need to put me out?" asked Liz. "I don't know if he's going to survive this delivery! I want to hear him! I want to see him! Can't you just give me a spinal?"

Her unmasked anger over this decision was directed at her obstetrician, who explained that they were looking out for the baby. She insisted on a compromise.

Although she agreed to be unconscious, Art would be in the room when the baby was delivered. After more debate, they finally agreed that her husband could be present. A nurse who was also in the room took photos of the delivery so Liz would be able to see her healthy baby boy come into the world.

Will Hyatt arrived on May 5, 2006 and weighed 6 pounds. His name, Will, was given to him because he had the will to survive.

“Will is a miracle to me, but he’s not a medical miracle,” explained Liz. “He’s not the only one, and so many more babies are saved because we know it’s safe for women to have chemo while pregnant.”



About a year and a half after Will was born, Liz received a call from *Hope for Two*. She had found *Hope for Two* shortly after she was diagnosed and had a wonderful support woman throughout her pregnant with cancer journey. She had not considered being a support woman, but they needed her help. There was another woman, pregnant and diagnosed with ovarian cancer, who needed support from an ovarian cancer survivor who had also gone through chemotherapy while pregnant.

## PART II: *Jill's story*

JILL PARKS LIVES IN COLORADO WITH her husband, Steve, and their two daughters, Avery and Rowan. She’s a wife, a mom, a daughter, a sister, an aunt, a friend, and an ovarian cancer survivor. Her life changing story began in March 2007, when she went for an annual exam at her gynecologist’s office.

During her regular checkup, the gynecologist asked if she’d been experiencing any pain or discomfort because her left ovary felt enlarged. She wasn’t having any problems, so both she and her doctor thought nothing of it.

In June 2007, Jill found out she was pregnant and decided to switch obstetricians. Although her experience with her first daughter’s birth was positive, she wanted a different experience with the second baby.

On July 2, she had her first appointment with her new obstetrician. The appointment began with an internal ultrasound to determine how far along she was, and to estimate a due date. That internal ultrasound clearly showed a mass on her ovary. It measured 10 centimeters. They decided to monitor the mass.

A month later, during another ultrasound, the doctor discovered that the mass had increased in size. Jill needed surgery to remove it before it tore or burst.

“I didn’t really want to have the surgery,” explained Jill. “I didn’t want to take time off work because eventually I was going to be out on maternity leave.”

The surgery was on a Thursday, and supposed to be 45 minutes long. It took four hours to remove the mass that measured nine inches by four inches by six inches. During the surgery, her left ovary and



fallopian tube was also removed. When she woke up, her mom and sister were sobbing over her. Her doctor explained that the pathology report would confirm everything the following Monday. Jill knew then that it was cancer because there had been no mention of pathology before.

On Monday, Jill was officially diagnosed with three types of ovarian cancer. Her gynecological oncologist said treatment should start immediately while she was pregnant. After hearing the devastating news, she sought a second opinion.

“IT’S SCARY. WHAT I REALLY NEEDED WAS SOMEONE WHO’D BEEN THROUGH CHEMO. I DIDN’T CARE IF IT WAS OVARIAN CANCER. I NEEDED THE CHEMO PERSPECTIVE.”

She thought, “How can I have chemotherapy? I’m pregnant!”

Another gynecological oncologist told her the same thing. Her cancer was so severe that if she didn’t start treatment and decided to wait, there was a strong possibility she wouldn’t survive. Then she called the Cancer Centers of America to see if they thought there was another way. All of their answers were the same. To save her own life, and the life of her baby, she needed to start treatment immediately.

*continued on next page...*

After the diagnosis, Jill found *Hope for Two*. She was originally matched with another woman who had also been diagnosed with ovarian cancer while pregnant, but had treated the cancer after the birth of her baby. The support woman was wonderful, but Jill needed someone who had gone through treatment while pregnant, so she called *Hope for Two* on September 24.

“It’s scary. What I really needed was someone who’s been through chemo. I didn’t care if it was ovarian cancer. I needed the chemo perspective.”

The next day, *Hope for Two* called her back. They had a new match. Liz was a pregnant with ovarian cancer survivor in remission for just over a year and had agreed to provide support to Jill through her journey.

“Liz is absolutely amazing. She made all the difference. It was crazy. She called me on the 25th and said OK, here’s what it’s going to be like. We laughed, we cried. It was incredible. I always say you are given what you need when you need it. She gave me hope.”

Jill’s regimen was identical to Liz’s. Four rounds of three kinds of chemotherapy. Her daughter Avery turned two on October 1, 2007. She began her treatment a week later.

Just as Liz had done, Jill completed chemotherapy before her expected due date of February 7, 2008. Before reaching the date, her doctors planned a cesarean section so they could deliver the baby and also collect more biopsy samples.

Rowan Parks entered the world on January 16, 2008. She was little, weighing 5.5 pounds at birth. Two days later, on January 18, Jill was informed she was cancer free.

“She was tiny and mighty,” explained Jill. “I knew I wouldn’t have found the cancer if it had not been for that first ul-



trasound. She’s my lifesaver. If they had told me to terminate, I wouldn’t. She was how I figured it out.”

In hindsight, Jill realizes she had some of the symptoms. She was always bloated. She would eat something and feel full right away, which was unlike her. She had lost 18 pounds without dieting. She felt tired, but attributed the fatigue to keeping up with a 15 month old.

### PART III: *A Surprise Visit*

LIZ AND JILL’S FRIENDSHIP DID NOT end when Rowan was born. The two kept in touch, sharing their highs and lows, reflecting on the good things that came from their experiences, as well as the bad things, and the things they still had trouble wrapping their heads around.

“It’s such a rare and special case,” explained Liz. “Jill is so much like me. There was nothing I ever said that she batted an eyelash at and nothing she said ever rubbed me wrong. We laughed or cried, and got stuff off our chest.”

In the fall of 2010, Steve Parks contacted Liz. He wanted to send Jill to visit. It was a surprise Christmas gift. Liz started crying hysterically. This visit from Jill was an amazing gift to her as well.

A month after Christmas, Jill boarded the plane and headed to Syracuse.

“I had a layover in Chicago,” explained Jill. “I was balling, I was just so excited and I was sitting there saying to myself, ‘c’mon Jill, pull it together!’”

Liz drove to the airport, laughing because she realized she’d only seen Jill in pictures. She arrived at the airport early, which was not good.

“It was the worst thing ever,” said Liz. “I was pacing back and forth like a nervous father waiting for a baby to be born. I was so nervous and excited I couldn’t contain myself.”

When they finally saw each other, they ran. They gave each other a huge, long hug and began crying hysterically, stopping to look at each other in awe, and then continued to hug again.

The two went to a local restaurant for dinner and began an unforgettable weekend together.



### PART IV: 2013

LIZ KNOWS SHE MET JILL UNDER THE best circumstances. She believes fate brought them together, because she needed Jill as much as Jill needed her. Liz no longer felt alone, and their visit in 2011 completed her healing. In May, she will celebrate seven years in remission.

Since Jill, Liz has been a support woman for other *Hope for Two* members. Some have kept in touch while others have not.

Last month, Jill celebrated five years in remission. She described meeting Liz for the first time as coming home to her twin sister. The weekend was incredibly healing for her because Liz had truly made all the difference in her pregnant with cancer journey. ♡

# message continued...

didn't take a shower or go out of her home for days. Besides being fearful, she was quite upset over lost time. While sobbing, she told me how, in the past, she was so particular with having her daughters clothing match and having perfectly ironed bows in their hair. It had been so important that she took them to the requisite number of after school activities so as to make them "well-rounded", all the while trying to fit in working, cleaning the house, seeing friends and family, etc. Looking back, some of it was nonsense, unnecessary. I told her not to look in the rear mirror but to forge ahead and be grateful for learning the aforementioned valuable insight.

This awareness was echoed by my friend's elderly mom when all five (5) of her children were given the gift to share her last moments on earth. My friend grew up when the chrome kitchen table was all the rage. During her childhood, at the

bequest of their mom, each child took their turn on Saturdays taking a toothbrush to the chrome table to bring back its original luster. Through tears, her mom recalled this practice and asked them all to promise her that they would let some dirt and dust bunnies accumulate, to spend less time on the "stuff" of life, and more with people and what is really meaningful. If she had a chance, she would have done things differently. Perhaps she needed a pruning shears earlier on. I have found that once you eliminate the excess commitments, "things", and activities, then the people, relationships, and significant activities emerge and flourish. Then maybe, just maybe, we can all feel less stressed, tired, and will have enough time, on most days, to do what is important to each one of us. Until next time, I wish you peace, courage to cut, and time to enjoy LIFE! ✨

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## the lemonade stand *to support Hope for Two*

SHANNA SHIRREFFS' SISTER TARA WAS DIAGNOSED with stage II breast cancer in 2012. Tara was pregnant with her fourth child at the time. About a month after her diagnosis, Tara found *Hope for Two*, and was matched with a support woman.

As a special birthday gift to her aunt, Tara's niece Kaylee thought up the idea of a lemonade stand to raise money for *Hope for Two*.

In October 2012, Shanna's daughters Kaylee (11) and Jayden (8) set up their lemonade stand outside their home in their suburban community outside St. Louis, Missouri. The girls made signs, and sold cookies and lemonade for four hours. They raised \$120.00 for *Hope for Two*.

"We do a lot of charity work, for Meals on Wheels and other nonprofits," explained Shanna. "They [Kaylee and Jayden] have big hearts and are very giving. I was really proud of Kaylee for thinking up this as a gift for her aunt for her birthday."

Tara completed her chemotherapy regimen in December, before the holidays. She gave birth to her son Samuel on January 3, 2013. She also recently completed her radiation treatment! *Hope for Two* extends sincerest thanks to Kaylee and Jayden for their hard work and generous contribution!



# Check out these BLOGS

## Chaos Is the Score Upon Which Reality Is Written

Diagnosed with breast cancer at age 32 while 12 weeks pregnant. This is my journey.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013

### Warm Bodies

Several weeks ago I read the book *Warm Bodies*. Yes... a book about zombies. It's not my usual genre but I'm one of those people who insist on reading the book before I watch the movie. I saw the preview for this movie and it looked hysterical so my sister-in-law and I decided that we were going to see the movie. We haven't seen the movie yet but we have both read the book. Anyhow... The book is about a zombie whose name is "R". He calls himself "R" because he has no memory of who he was before he turned into a zombie. "R" meets a human girl and saves her from the other zombies. He begins to grow self-aware. He starts to feel things both emotionally and physically and he eventually turns back into a human. Chemo had kinda turned me into a zombie. The past several weeks I have been slowly becoming more self-aware. Every day I start to feel a little bit more normal. I can't



FOLLOWERS

**Rebecca Raymond, Member  
Breast Cancer**  
[www.raymondchaos.blogspot.com](http://www.raymondchaos.blogspot.com)

**Fighting for Two**  
Pregnant with Cancer

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About Me

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**About Me**

Comments: 2

I live in Los Angeles with my amazing husband, Eiteban. We are expecting a baby girl in May 2013. At our first ultrasound, they found a cyst on my ovary which was determined to be ovarian cancer. So here is the story of my journey! Feel free to leave messages even though I have not talked to you in a while or don't even know me. Knowing that I have a support system makes 'Fighting for Two' a little easier!



Los Angeles has been home to me for the past 10 years. I moved here to attend Loyola Marymount University. After graduation, I pursued my passion and graduated from Culinary school. I love to bake—especially cookies and tarts. I also love to travel, play puzzles, make people laugh, go to Disneyland, cook with my husband and plan events!

RECENT POSTS

[Thankful Thursday- Living in LA](#)

[First Round of Chemotherapy](#)

[Emotional Roller Coaster](#)

[Thankful Thursday- My in-laws](#)

[More information, more confusion](#)

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BABY ZUNO'S DUE DATE

May 20th, 2013

2

months to go.

**Kim Zuno, Member  
Ovarian Cancer**  
[www.fightingfortwo.wordpress.com](http://www.fightingfortwo.wordpress.com)

# New Online Calendar from CaringBridge to Organize Help

CARINGBRIDGE, A NON-PROFIT AND PROUD *Hope for Two* partner, BRINGS family and friends together during any type of health event. It is an on-line space where families can connect, share and receive support – kind of like a ‘caring’ social network. Many of you are familiar with CaringBridge signature sites where individuals can post updates and family and friends can leave words of hope and encouragement.

CaringBridge is excited to introduce the SupportPlanner. The SupportPlanner is an online calendar used to organize help with specific tasks – like transportation needs, meals, child care, etc. – among family and friends. This service provides tangible support to families during stressful days and times of overwhelming needs. SupportPlanner makes it easy for family and friends to help their loved ones. Visit CaringBridge and check out this new feature: SupportPlanner (<http://caringb.org/2v>). For more information about this free service, visit [www.CaringBridge.org](http://www.CaringBridge.org).



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## SUPPORTPLANNER

An online calendar that helps family and friends coordinate care and organize helpful tasks.

Visit

support someone in your life

Here are some examples of common helpful tasks:

- Being a meal planner
- Providing childcare during appointment times
- Caring for pets

start today

It takes just 5 minutes. Our SupportPlanner gives you the power to set a community of support in motion.

Start a planner

## testimonial

“

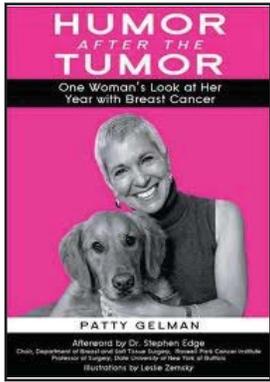
I was diagnosed with nodular melanoma at 19 weeks pregnant with my third child. Hope for Two was an amazing support to me during that scary time.”

**KATIE C., CALIFORNIA**

# book review

## *Humor After the Tumor*

BY PATTY GELMAN



*HUMOR AFTER THE TUMOR* IS A WITTY, interesting and thought-provoking book about a woman's experience with breast cancer. The book is authored by Patty Gelman, the mother of Lisa Gelman-Koessler, MD, a *Hope for Two...Pregnant with Cancer Network* board member and illustrated by Leslie Zemsky. *Humor After the Tumor* provides a humorous and extremely positive perspective on cancer. Based on the experiences of author Gelman, the autobiographical account has received a high rating of five stars on Amazon.com, and has been

described by readers as "a must read for anyone who has been affected by any type of cancer." *Humor After the Tumor* can be purchased at Amazon or at Barnes and Noble, and is also available in an electronic version. ☞

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# ask the therapist

BY CHRISTINE BYLEWSKI, LCSW-R, BCD

*Chris is a licensed clinical social worker, Vice-Chairwoman of Hope for Two...The Pregnant with Cancer Network Board of Directors, and co-author of the Hope for Two Volunteer Support Woman Training DVD.*

## Question:

What can I do to reduce the anxiety I feel while awaiting test results? I am such a wreck, I can't eat or sleep and feel so edgy. I need some strategies.

## Answer:

Experiencing anxiety is expected while awaiting test results. This being said it is important to develop strategies that can help soften the anxiety. I do not think it is realistic to think that you will not have any dark thoughts. Practicing mindfulness that is "staying in the moment" is very helpful. Repeating "I am ok until the MD tells me otherwise" is an important reminder to oneself. Also leaning on your support system and letting them know you are having a hard time while waiting is another strategy. Loved ones are not mind readers so being clear about what you need is important. We have all heard the phrase "take one day at a time" and this is excellent advice. Practicing it when you are not overly stressed will help you when you are. Above all else, remember to breathe. A good inhalation and a long exhalation helps to calm the nervous system and release tension in the muscles. Focusing on your breath at bedtime contributes to improved sleep which makes for a better day in the morning.

# Breast Cancer During Pregnancy Study of Psychological Effects

*HOPE FOR TWO* MEMBER JANNE RODSTEN, who resides in the UK and is studying to be a Psychologist, is conducting a survey as part of her doctoral research. She is gathering information to study the psychological effects of breast cancer during pregnancy. Women who have experienced breast cancer during pregnancy and wish to participate, can access the details and Janne's survey through the following link: [http://uwehls.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_51s2Q52NoFSZZJO](http://uwehls.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_51s2Q52NoFSZZJO)

We hope to share the details of Janne's research in the future. If interested, participation is kindly requested by April 1, 2013. ☞

# testimonial

“*When I was initially diagnosed it seemed that I was the only one in the world that had ever experienced being pregnant with cancer...finding Hope for Two and all the resources available helped make my journey so much more bearable.*”

MEGAN H., GEORGIA

# Coping With Cancer

BY CHRISTINE BYLEWSKI, LCSW-R, BCD

A DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER IS OFTEN SHOCKING AND DEVASTATING. What makes it even more devastating is the fact that it is a disease that affects the entire family. Each person involved feels the impact, which can be disruptive and chaotic, and finding ways to cope, make decisions, and engage in the treatment process is essential.

Women are traditionally emotional caregivers, and their natural instinct is often to protect their families from upset, and resist help. Often they are afraid to ask for help out of fear of being disappointed. While respecting their lead and wishes is important, gentle but firm encouragement may be necessary.

Above all, communication is critical in negotiating daily lifestyle changes because when families face cancer together it has a long-lasting positive impact on their future emotional health. Simply put, it creates intimacy.

Children need to be told what's going on, but information should be given in an age appropriate manner. A five-year-old shouldn't be provided with the same level of detail an adolescent may require. Answering questions simply and honestly is a good rule of thumb. When children have accurate information it helps them feel they are playing an important part in supporting the patient. Up to date information also keeps children from making wrong assumptions.

Coping with cancer includes becoming educated about the disease, and understanding medical information also helps with exploring treatment options. It is important to be careful when using the Internet, though, because many cancer sites are too comprehensive and not entirely relevant to the patient's situation. Support groups offer the opportunity to connect with other patients and reduce isolation.

Our organization, Hope For Two, ([www.hopefortwo.org](http://www.hopefortwo.org)) offers women who discover that they have cancer while pregnant with support from others who were similarly diagnosed. One in 1,000 women battle cancer while pregnant, and knowing it is possible to survive cancer during pregnancy and deliver a healthy baby is exactly what an expectant mother and her family are desperate to hear.

No woman wants to hear the word cancer. Many cancer patients will discover the needed strength from family, supportive friends, and community resources. Life after cancer may be different than before the diagnosis, but surprisingly lived with greater awareness, gratitude, and joy than ever expected. ☞

*Christine Bylewski is a licensed clinical social worker and Vice-Chairwoman of the Hope for Two Board of Directors.*

## the cancer and pregnancy registry

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN A confidential international registry that tracks the pregnancy outcomes and long term health of women, and children of women diagnosed with cancer during pregnancy, please contact Dr. Elyce Cardonick.

Dr. Cardonick is a Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist who created The Cancer and Pregnancy Registry as a tool to help women diagnosed with cancer during pregnancy make difficult choices based on data and facts, not fear. Each new

patient that participates in The Registry contributes to not only helping themselves, but also provides critical data to help women worldwide make educated decisions.

Dr. Cardonick is also available to consult with women and/or their physicians to address medical questions pertaining to their specific cancer and pregnancy situation. For more information, visit: at [www.cancerinpregnancy.com](http://www.cancerinpregnancy.com) or call 1.877.635.4499 (toll free) or 1.856.342.2491. ☞

## donations

Hope for Two received a generous donation from The Ironman Foundation on behalf of Beth Barrese who completed an Ironman event in honor of her sister, Anne Fritz, a Hope for Two member and two time cancer survivor. ☞

Jeff and Amy Johnson held a fundraiser in honor of their friend and Hope for Two member, Tara Boland, raising more than \$1,000 for the network. ☞

# Special Deliveries

## babies born to mothers who were pregnant with cancer

CAROLINA HIRSCHLER gave birth to Sol  
in October 2010 (4 lbs. 1 oz.)

ASHLEY DIETRICH gave birth to Beckett Anthony  
in April 2011 (5 lbs. 1 oz.)

KRISTIN CASILLO gave birth to Nicholas Joseph  
in August 2011 (6 lbs. 15 oz.)

KITT ALLEN gave birth to Liam  
in March 2012 (6 lbs. 13 oz.)

BRITTANY PELTOLA gave birth to Emerson Victoria  
in March 2012 (3 lbs. 2 oz.)

CHRISTINE ETHERINGTON gave birth to  
Caden Wilson in May 2012 (4 lbs. 3 oz.)

MARA SNYDER gave birth to Alana  
in July 2012 (6 lbs. 14 oz.)

MEGAN HARRIS gave birth to Houston David  
in July 2012 (9 lbs. 1 oz.)

KERRY MARTIN gave birth to Serafina  
in August 2012 (5 lbs. 15 oz.)

TK LARGEY gave birth to June Elizabeth  
in August 2012 (6 lbs. 1 oz.)

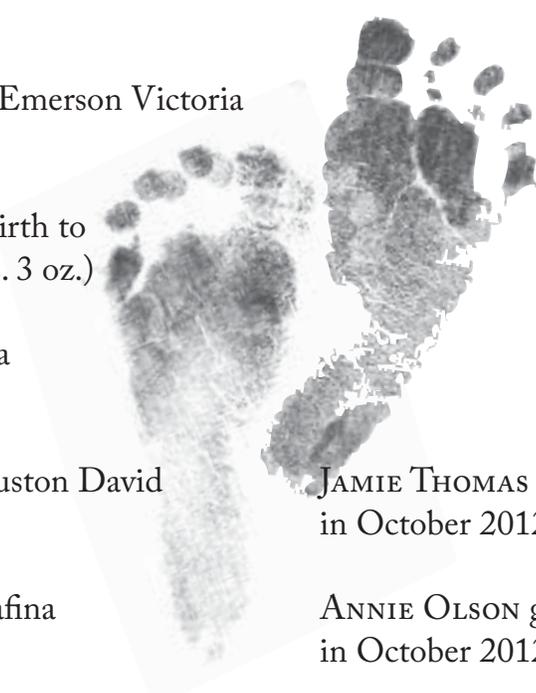
OANA IOANA gave birth to Sophia Teodora  
in August 2012 (7 lbs. 6 oz.)

EMILY NOLTE gave birth to Luna Eve  
in August 2012 (9 lbs.)

DEBRA ANTOCI gave birth to Christina Giovanna  
in September 2012 (5 lbs. 15 oz.)

KELLIE FITZPATRICK gave birth to Daniel Paul  
in October 2012 (6 lbs. 3 oz.)

REBECCA RAYMOND gave birth to Ezekiel James  
in October 2012 (8 lbs. 4 oz.)



SPECIAL NEWS:  
MEMBER SARAH JOANIS  
HAS ADOPTED  
NORA ERIN AFTER  
DELIVERING HER OWN  
BABY WHILE HAVING  
CANCER. NORA  
WAS BORN IN  
NOVEMBER 2012  
(6 LBS. 9 OZ.)

JAMIE THOMAS gave birth to Amelia-rae Faith  
in October 2012 (7 lbs. 4 oz.)

ANNIE OLSON gave birth to Jackson Philip  
in October 2012 (7 lbs. 11 oz.)

ZOE WYE gave birth to Matilda Grace  
in December 2012 (5 lbs. 1 oz.)

Kathryn Gibbons gave birth to Linnea Mary  
in January 2013 (9 lbs. 14 oz.)

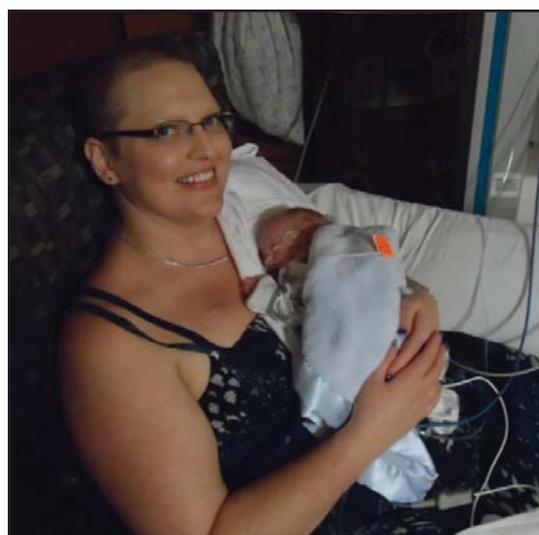
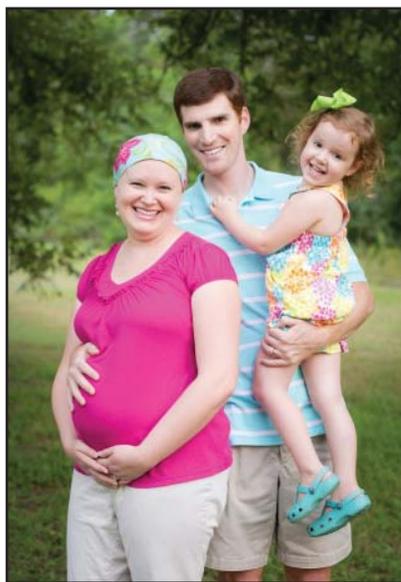
Tara Boland gave birth to Samuel David  
in January 2013 (3 lbs. 14 oz.)

*tell us about your little miracle*

[info@hopefortwo.org](mailto:info@hopefortwo.org)

# the hope for two NETWORK connecting through social media

WE RECENTLY REACHED OUT TO OUR CONNECTIONS ON Facebook requesting photos from women that were taken during their pregnant with cancer journey. The request went viral and the response was overwhelming! We now have more than 3,380 followers on Facebook, and hundreds of photos from women who were pregnant with cancer. We are using these photos in a slideshow at *Rocking With Hope for Two*, but wanted to share some of them in the newsletter. Thank you to all of those women who sent us your photos and shared your stories. ♡

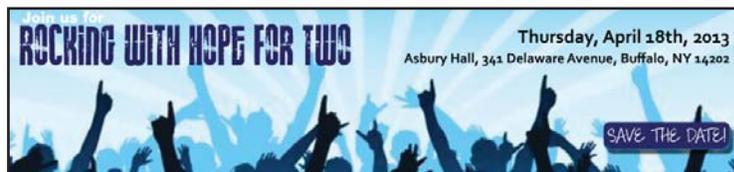


# Save the Date! April 18, 2013 rocking with hope for two

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 18, *Hope for Two...The Pregnant with Cancer Network* will host its fourth annual *Rocking With Hope for Two* fundraiser at Asbury Hall in Buffalo, New York. The evening kicks off with a VIP champagne reception at 5:30 p.m. and musical entertainment from The Michael Bly Band and Mari McNeil Jazz. From 6 – 10 p.m. guests will enjoy wine tasting and a cash bar, food stations from Hutch's, Tempo, Giancarlo's and the Chocolate Bar (local Buffalo restaurants), and a fashion show by Tony Walker.

A silent auction featuring beautiful hand-crafted works of art, theme baskets and much more will be open for bidding throughout the evening.

Tickets to the event are \$50 per person and are available online. Also, if you cannot attend the event but would like to make a contribution or become a sponsor, please visit our website to donate through PayPal: [www.hopefortwo.org/event.php](http://www.hopefortwo.org/event.php)



Rocking With Hope for Two supports the Hope for Two mission to provide women diagnosed with cancer while pregnant with information, support and hope. All of the funds raised are used for the sole purpose and benefit of patients and their families, primarily through peer to peer counseling services. Hope for Two links cancer free survivors who once faced a similar diagnosis with newly diagnosed women to provide hope and support. We also provide each new member with a tote full of educational materials and essential baby items.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit: [www.hopefortwo.org/event.php](http://www.hopefortwo.org/event.php). We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your support! ☺

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## become a support woman we've updated our support training video

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF *Hope for Two* WHO HAS BEEN SUPPORTED in the past? Have you previously been pregnant with cancer? Have you thought about becoming a support woman? Members who were formerly supported and women who have found us since their pregnant with cancer journey are the MAINSTAYS of our NETWORK!

*Hope for Two* continues to be successful in accomplishing its mission due to the generosity of women who are willing to listen and share their stories.

Please consider becoming a Volunteer Support Woman for *Hope for Two* so you can support others. If it's been at least one year from your treatment, you are healthy, and wish to support a new member, please contact us.

Perhaps you've begun our training at some point or viewed part of our video but haven't yet completed the process. If so, please consider participating again to become a volunteer. We've updated our training video to assist you in providing the best support possible to our newly diagnosed members and to feel confident doing so. *Hope for Two* could not exist without the dedication of its support women! Please contact Susan, our Patient Coordinator, at [info@hopefortwo.org](mailto:info@hopefortwo.org) or call 1.800.743.4471 to get started. ☺

*If you live in the Western New York area and would like to serve on the Hope for Two Board of Directors, please contact Patty Murray at [info@hopefortwo.org](mailto:info@hopefortwo.org).*

# Got News?

[www.hopelfortwo.org](http://www.hopelfortwo.org)

**Hopeline** is printed to share ideas and stories among members. If you'd like to share your story, birth announcement or information for publication, Please contact us!

INFO@HOPEFORTWO.ORG

1.800.743.4471

Hope For Two...The Pregnant  
With Cancer Network  
PO Box 253  
Amherst, NY 14226

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

*Materials published in Hopeline are not intended to provide medical advice, which should be obtained from a qualified physician. Information and ideas included do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of all members.*

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