

DONORS MAKE AN IMPACT ON PATIENT CARE

Lana's Story

I felt like I was doing what I needed to do to be proactive. Screening is something that's always been extremely important in my family. My father is a long-time colon cancer survivor, and his twin sister passed away of breast cancer at 57. I was even tempted in December, 2021, to call and reschedule. But then I felt guilty about the notion of moving it, with the "What ifs" so I was like, "No no, I'll make it work" and I went in. And thankfully I did...

Just before Christmas that year, I had to go for an ultrasound and another mammogram. I'd had this experience before and it turned out to be cysts; I was expecting this to be the same thing. When the radiologist came in, and the nurse handed me a box of tissue, that's when I was like, "this is different." It was a bit of a shock. It definitely played on my mind all through the holidays.

I was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer on January 30, 2022. Honestly, I felt a whole lot better once I knew what was happening. Once I had the results and all the cards on the table, I had a sense of comfort that I was in the right spot and the right people were looking after me, whereas that not knowing limbo, was, I think, far worse mentally and just trying to get through that was probably the worst part of the whole process.

My surgery was a few weeks later. Going in and talking to Dr. Shakerinia (General Surgeon) the first time, I had a huge sense of comfort like it was some sort of sign because he was my dad's surgeon almost 18 years ago. I always had so much respect for what he did in saving my dad's life, that I just immediately felt like it was a comfort and all the steps were going to be taken.

Since Lana's initial mammography, the Friends Foundation funded two 3D screening units and one 3D diagnostic unit to help with the early detection of breast cancer.

Whether it was for surgery or chemo appointments, everyone I've encountered at The Moncton Hospital has made me feel pretty special. Even though you could see their fatigue, they still made me feel like the most important person there. The volunteers can't do enough for you. Even the porters—the people who had to wheel me around the hospital—they always did it with such grace and humour. It was just amazing. I have so much respect for them.

I am also so grateful for the Friends Foundation's philanthropic effort which made health care better for me, my friends, my family and for our entire community. The experience as a patient has helped me reflect on the importance of giving. When you donate, it allows the Friends Foundation to enhance the health of our community. They do this through supporting the exceptional health care team at The Moncton Hospital in doing their jobs, contributing to innovations and improving the care your loved ones receive.

LANA HANSEN

Stage 2 Breast Cancer Patient

2024 UPDATE

Lana is doing great. She recently had her first post-treatment mammogram and happy to report that everything looked good.

"Never any promises taken for granted—but as good as I could hope for. I'll take it. Living my best life and enjoying every moment."

