



Allow me to introduce myself...

My name is Joanna. I'm twenty-six years old, a bank manager, yoga queen, and Wii fanatic. What you probably can't tell at first glance about me is that in addition to all these things, I have also been battling cancer for the past two years.

My story...

It all started two years ago when I noticed a lump under my left arm. After a few weeks, the lump grew to the size of a baseball, so I visited my physician and underwent a biopsy. A few days later I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

I started the standard course of treatment immediately - six months of chemotherapy. I achieved remission and continued regular checkups that seemed to reaffirm that I too would be one of the 80 percent of Hodgkin's patients cured after their first chemo regimen.

Six months later, test results revealed that my cancer was active again. My fight continued with more aggressive treatment: more chemo followed by a stem cell transplant using my own body's stem cells. It was an extremely difficult month spent in the hospital, but once again the cancer had been eradicated and my recovery was progressing beautifully. I returned to work, regained my full head of hair, and I gradually started to settle back into my normal routine.

Three months later, I had an evaluation of my post-transplant progress. The lab results confirmed my worst fear - the cancer had not gone away, in fact it had spread to my bone marrow.

My family and I sat down with for the most serious consultation with my doctor I have ever had. The bottom line was that my only chance for a cure was to undergo another stem cell transplant - this time from a donor. I am more determined than fight my way to becoming a cancer survivor, but I can't do it alone...



Here's How You Can Help...

Become a donor - you could be one to save Joanna's life!

- Visit www.ahepamarrow.org for information about upcoming donor drives for Joanna.
- **Becoming a donor is easy! Simply complete a brief registration & health form and give a swab of your cheek to be tested.**
- **Your decision to donate is completely free of charge to you.**