

Letter to the Editor

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Dear Editor:

As a breast cancer survivor I would like to draw attention to National Cancer Survivor's Day on June 7th. It is a day that all survivors can be proud of. We have been through a lot and thanks to God, doctors, research, family and friends we are still living life to the fullest, taking it one day at a time.

I was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer in July of 2002. I had a mastectomy, chemo and a medication to kill all of the estrogen in my body. Everything was great until 3 years later when in shock and horror I found out that it reoccurred back into my lymph nodes. I again went through chemotherapy and radiation. It was a very stressful time emotionally, physically and financially.

I am one of the lucky one's to have survived breast cancer, nit once but twice. I am also one of the lucky ones to have had health insurance at the time. I want to inform anyone who would skip their mammograms and pap tests due to no coverage you do not have to.

Early detection can increase your chances for survival. Please don't wait to have your cancer screenings. You can become a survivor like me. It doesn't need to be a death sentence. If you don't get checked for yourself do it for your loved ones.

There is a state wide program called the Cancer Services Program. They provide free cancer screenings for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer to women age 40 - 64 years old, and are no cost to you. You also may be eligible for treatment of the disease if you are diagnosed.

Enrollment into the program is easy.

In Fulton and Montgomery Counties you can contact Suzanne Hagadorn, Program Coordinator at 770-7516.

~Diana Decker