

Elisa McGruder

“A breast cancer diagnosis can be very frightening. I was first diagnosed in April of 2007. After giving myself a cursory exam, I thought I felt a lump. I was right. After 2 rounds of chemotherapy, a month of radiation and a lumpectomy on my left breast I was in remission. I was 37. “Why me?” crossed my mind. After watching my mother battle cancer I knew that it could one day happen

to me. She was so brave and so strong so I knew I could beat it too. I give thanks to God and all my caregivers, my mother, Thelma L. Brown, who despite her own illness was always encouraging me, my sister, Maxine Bagley, who fed me mentally and my sister, Terri V. Brown, who fed me physically. I would also like to thank my Aunt Clara, my fiancée and my sons whose

love and support never wavered. Please remember to get a yearly mammogram. Early detection saves lives. I am a living”

—Story submitted by Kareta Purnell, Friend & Coworker

