

# Narfunda Gibson Ross



“Narfunda Gibson Ross, was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 33. She is a wife and mother of two sons. She was amazing with how she accepted the news and moved forward with her life. She wasn’t at the age to have a screening, but she was aware of self-exams and noticed a lump in her breast. After the diagnosis, she had a double-mastectomy, and several weeks of chemotherapy. Her husband shaved her head after she noticed her hair coming out, and her sons were there through the entire time. It wasn’t a secret, the entire family and community was aware of her diagnosis. Her sons were 9 and 12 at the time. This has been a family journey. We all pitched-in and did what we need to do. Narfunda, was a trooper. She couldn’t use her arms for several weeks after the surgery, but she made it to her son’s ballgames, their school functions, and kept her church activities



in place. She has since returned to work and continues to receive phone calls from community people wanting to know what and how to approach this diagnosis as well

as other medical concerns. She has become an avid speaker to local community groups and church organizations. She was also given a survivor celebration, “**She Fought It Like A Diva**” with over 100 people attending in 2010. It was something at my age of 38 to provide my baby sister with care that would never had crossed my mind if I had been asked. I bathed her and dressed her during the two weeks she could use her arms. My mother prepared all her food and her husband worked and made sure that the kids were keeping their schoolwork current. This took a family effort to get through. So we were all doing things that we hadn’t planned for ourselves. But we thank Narfunda for her spirit and her strength to move on like a DIVA.”

—Story submitted by Jatunn Gibson, sister

