

# Kristeen Knight



“At the age of 31, I was not worried about breast cancer. Being a mother and wife was the world to me. However, while breastfeeding my son I developed an infection in my left breast. This was a very scary time and not being able to afford health care made it even more difficult. Then I was put into contact with the wonderful Colleen Alsbrook and the East Alabama Medical Center Foundation and because of their diligence I was able to have a mammogram and biopsy. These tests revealed that I had stage 3A Breast Cancer.

My treatment consisted of double mastectomy with lymph node removal, eight rounds of chemotherapy, about forty sessions of radiation therapy, and a total hysterectomy. I suffered from fatigue, skin burns, lymphedema, body aches, insomnia, neuropathy, complete hair lost, extreme skin dryness, mouth sores, and depression. But would I do it again? I would do it without a second thought because on October 11, 2013, my second PET/CT scan showed no signs of cancer.

My battle is not over. I may always suffer side effects from my treatment. However, I know that

there is not anything I cannot overcome. I have the best support and medical team in world. We celebrated every victory no matter how small. I have also pledged my life to the support of others enduring this and other horrible diseases. This condition has impacted my family and I for the better. We are much closer or aware of how precious life is. The best part of all is that my son has a lifetime of birthdays with his mommy.”

