

Kathy Zoss

In November 2007, I found a lump in my right breast doing a self breast exam. I went to the Doctor and was sent to the Breast Health Institute in Sioux Falls. Five biopsies and an ultrasound were done, and I was told it was nothing to worry about. I continued to go to my scheduled appointments every year after.

This past August, 2012, I went for my scheduled appointment, and found out that my lump had grown. The Doctor wanted to do 4 more biopsies and an ultrasound. I had told the Doctor no matter what the outcome was, "I want this lump removed" and he agreed. I received the biopsy report, and it came back negative. The Doctor at the Breast health Institute said that he would refer me to a surgeon, but before I could have surgery, I needed to heal. The plan to have surgery in October didn't happen as my family had a house fire October 4th, 2012 and lost everything. My surgery was then set for November 19th, 2012. On November 26th (the Monday after Thanksgiving) I received "the call" that changed my world, saying that I had breast cancer. Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS) is the correct term. December 19th (my Dad's birthday) I started my radiation treatments...Monday thru Friday, for the next 6 1/2 weeks. Dr. Dick and his staff were, and are, wonderful. Through my needle scares to the smiles and jokes, it made it a lot easier. On February 13, 2013 (the day before my birthday) I went to the Doctors in Sioux Falls and was told that my persistence on wanting the lump removed, saved me. The Doctor told me that in less than a year it could have been full blown. That is when he told me I was "CANCER FREE"..... My treatment of oral medicine started March 15th. I will be taking Tamoxifen, for prevention, for the next 5 years.