



**Victoria Barajas,  
Cancer Survivor** 

I am a cancer survivor. Amazing, isn't it. Every day I look back and am thankful for what I have survived. It could have been so much worse.

It all started back in 2003 with the most wonderful news of my life: I was pregnant with my third child. I already had two teenage boys, and Charles and I were hoping for a girl. But in the blink of an eye everything changed...

Around the seventh month of my pregnancy, I began to notice extreme swelling in my left breast. At first I thought nothing of it; after all I was seven months pregnant! But by the eighth month the pain was excruciating so I consulted my doctor. He performed an emergency ultrasound and found a suspicious lump. He told me I needed to deliver the baby immediately, and my world spun out of control.

A needle biopsy followed my delivery and the results confirmed the worst - I had stage 3B breast cancer. I went in for an emergency mastectomy, and the months that followed were long and difficult. I endured the most aggressive Chemotherapy regimen available, and 36 treatments of radiation therapy. I lost all of my hair and my body underwent dramatic physical changes.

As I look back on it today I am a stronger person because of my battle with cancer. During that time there was nothing more difficult than waking up each day and fighting to survive, and I realized that mind-over-matter was the only thing that would pull me through.

I was one of the lucky ones - lets make sure there are more who have the same opportunity to survive. Please help in the fight against cancer by supporting Promark Financial's vision of providing cancer awareness to our community. I am both an employee and a client, and it meant the world of difference to me to have been provided the opportunity to purchase life insurance before it was too late. Please help them cheer others on by making a referral today.

*Victi Barajas*