



Angels Among Us

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August 15, 2008

Imagine the impact of these words, "You have cancer."

Michele Baccaro Parson, a lifelong resident of Middletown, was devastated when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. With the unwavering support of her family and friends, she endured the surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, and won her first battle in 1989. She was just thirty-three.

In 2006, at a routine doctor's appointment, Michele was then diagnosed with Metastatic Peritoneal Carcinoma, or abdominal cancer. Michele began her second fight against this disease. Unable to work, a financial strain had been placed on her husband, Mike, who works at Remsen Dodge in Keyport. Even with his benefits, the countless doctors' visits, chemotherapy, CAT scans, MRIs and PET scans, their burden grew. Their savings were depleted and they were forced to tap into their family's 401(k) fund.

A follow-up appointment in June of 2007 revealed a clear PET scan! Michele's family and friends celebrated! She was feeling healthier and was optimistic to have won a SECOND battle with cancer! She took time to enjoy her recovering body and shared time with her husband, her three children, and six beautiful grandchildren!

Then things took a turn for the worse. Michele had a seizure in April of 2008 and was rushed to the hospital. This time, the diagnosis was brain cancer. Although she began a third round of treatment, she lost her battle on August 11, 2008.

Today, you can make an immediate difference in the life of Michele's family. We are asking members of our community to make a donation to help alleviate the financial strain upon the Parson family. **100% of the proceeds raised will go directly to the family** to help pay for Michele's medical bills and funeral costs that range into the tens of thousands. I hope we can count on you to help.

An auction will be held on January 16, 2009 at the Sheraton Eatontown (see attached or visit www.sheratoneatontown.com for directions). We will be collecting gift baskets, gift certificates, hand-crafted items, art, etc. Of course, a monetary donation would also be appreciated. Share the most generous gift you can, as soon as possible.

Please contact me with an assistance you may be able to provide.

With grateful appreciation,

Gail Lionetti
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