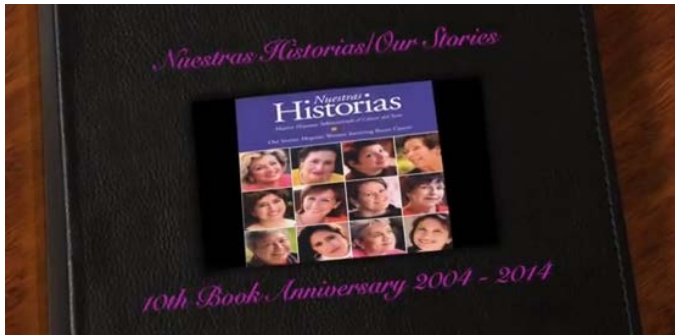


Nuestras Historias: 10 Years Later!



Here is what some Latina cancer survivors have been up to in the last 10 years since sharing their stories in Nuestras Historias: Mujeres Hispanas Sobreviviendo el Cáncer del Seno (Our Stories: Hispanic Women Surviving Breast Cancer)!

Aurora Guajardo

1. How would you describe your current breast health?

I have been doing relatively well. However, I have been diagnosed with endometrial cancer, for which I had a hysterectomy and it turns out that I also have a very aggressive form of cervical cancer.

2. How did the experience of being featured in the book impact your life and your family's life?

At a personal level, I enjoyed being part of it. My family is very proud that I participated in it.

3. Is there anything that you know now that you wish you had known when you were diagnosed with cancer? Why?

I've always been very careful with my health and my test results. Unfortunately, it took 2 years for my medical team in Mexico to diagnose me with endometrial cancer. I've learned the importance of being on top of my health, as I know that the earlier we find something malignant, the better chances we have to treat it and cure it!

4. What advice do you have for other women recently diagnosed with breast cancer?

My advice to women recently diagnosed with cancer is for them to follow the medical treatment suggested by their doctors. Breast cancer is no longer a death sentence. Nowadays, we have lots of resources to treat it.

However, we must check ourselves as indicated by health care professionals and, in case of doubt or if we find anything suspicious, consult with a physician immediately. Acting swiftly can save your life!

5. What accomplishments/milestones have you experienced in the past 10 years that you're proud/grateful for?

My biggest accomplishment is to be able to enjoy my growing family, and volunteer at an elderly center where I live in Mexico where I have had the opportunity to teach an English class.

6. What does survivorship mean to you?

Survivorship to me means that God is giving me another opportunity to enjoy life. However, I insist, in order to survive, we must be proactive about our health and find any malignancies or tumors at their earliest stages when there's more treatment and cure opportunities.

7. What challenges, if any, do you still face as a survivor?

At the moment, I'm still facing the challenges of battling cancer once again. This time, I'm an endometrial and cervical cancer survivor.

8. What are your hopes for the near future?

I'm already 71 years old and would like to enjoy the blessing of good health. As a result from my cancer treatments, I have developed a horrible peripheral neuropathy; which is quite bothersome, more than having to carry a catheter on my chest for 3 years. At present, all I wish for is to recuperate my health, with God's grace.