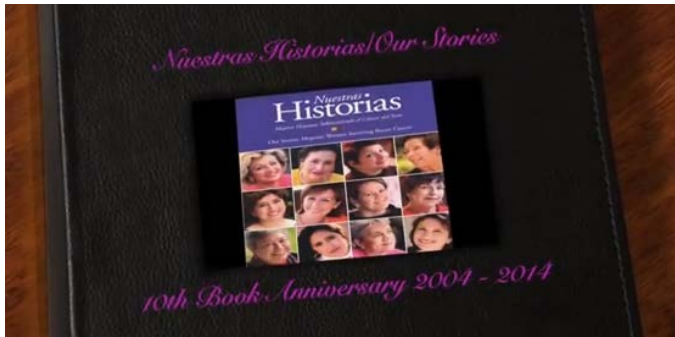


Nuestras Historias: 10 Years Later!



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)!

Mary González

1. How would you describe your current breast health?

I have been cancer free thus far. I feel very blessed in that aspect. This past February 2014, I completed 26 years of being cancer-free.

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

It was an amazing experience to be featured in the book and to have the opportunity to meet so many breast cancer survivors and receive the confidence to spread the word about breast cancer awareness.

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

Looking back, for many years I wished that I would have been more assertive with my breast cancer care. However, as the years have passed, I realize the awareness was not like it is today. So, I don't worry too much about that now. I am just thankful of where we are today.

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

I only have two siblings, two sisters. My oldest sister was recently diagnosed with Stage 2b Breast Cancer. As she begins her journey, my advice to her is to take it a step at a time, ask as many questions as she needs to, to pay attention to her symptoms, let people that love her take

care of her. Everyone is different and will respond differently, but most importantly, I emphasize to her that we have come a very long way with medical advancements and treatment and that she, too, will become a survivor.

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

I reached my 20th and 25th years of being cancer-free, changed careers. My great-grandson was born this year, and downsized to a smaller, more manageable home.

6. What does survivorship mean to you?

Survivorship means that I have been able to see my children grow up; I've been given the opportunity to enjoy my grandchildren, the chance to grow old with my loving husband. I am living a full and healthy life!

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

No challenges.

8. What are your hopes for the near future?

Continued good health. A cancer cure!