

LYNN'S STORY



In 2018, my husband started a new position with his company. Within the first three months, our finances were tanking. We were struggling to pay the bills; things were feeling desperate. Also in 2018, I received my reminder card to book my mammogram. I did promptly as I had felt a lump a few months before. My appointment was booked for March. Within two weeks, I received a call from Ridge Meadows Hospital saying I was booked for another mammogram, an ultrasound, and a biopsy. Within another two-week period the results were in. I made an appointment to see my GP.

When he said the words, "You have a malignant tumor", my heart sank. I was with my two children and had

to drive home from VGH. The drive felt like hours. *Was I going to die? Who would look after my children? How would Stuart manage? What about my sister and Mom & Dad? Would I have to do chemotherapy?* Millions of questions were running through my head. I stopped everything and prayed. I knew God had control. I surrendered to His Will and did whatever I could to trust that He had it all under control.

In May, I had my first surgery with amazing doctors and nurses. I found out that I would not need chemo and my genetic testing came back negative! However, we were still struggling financially; it was becoming increasingly difficult to keep our heads above water. We were living in our overdraft. Every night we prayed. We thanked God for all the blessings He had given us. My children were fed and had full bellies every night. My children had clean clothes to wear. They were warm, safe and could rest their heads every night. I thanked God every night and day for the second chance He had given me. I was not going to take it for granted.

I ended up having two surgeries and 20 rounds of radiation. Thinking back, all I can think of is how grateful I am. Also, *how can I make this situation as easy as possible for all those around me?* Stuart was working EVERY DAY trying to provide for us. Stuart was the solid foundation that kept us going no matter what. He never once complained.

Around the middle of December that year, I was starting to worry about how we would have Christmas. *How was I going to buy our kids gifts? More importantly, how was I going to provide Christmas dinner for my family?* I decided to stop worrying and to pray. Our Lord has taken care of everything so far. He has provided us with everything we need. He would continue to provide.

Three days later, I got a call from two women asking if I was picking up my kids from school. I showed up. Two women, angels, were standing there. They were holding a rosemary tree covered in gift certificates. Days prior, these specific women were trying to find a family to help at Christmas. My

family was chosen. Our family ended up having more than enough financially. The tree had a generous amount of money attached to it.

Yes!! I did the ugly cry in front of everyone. God heard my prayer and gave me this miracle. Every time I talk about this, I get emotional. This form of charity changed our lives 100%. The goodness of others in the form of charity has made our faith in Jesus Christ that much stronger. The Giving Tree Charity will always have a place in my heart.

I am honored to be asked to help with this event. I hope and pray that I can touch someone's life the way mine has been touched.

