



Positive attitude helps Strongsville resident battle cancer

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By



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Martha Randell.

In January 2010, Strongsville resident Martha Randell was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. Doctors told the “shocked” 68-year-old surgery was not an option, as the cancer had metastasized to her liver, and gave her three to six months to live.

Randell has proved this original diagnosis wrong, having received a Positron emission tomography (PET) Scan six weeks ago that showed her cancer shrunk considerably, and indicated reduced enzyme numbers; a positive sign. She now undergoes chemotherapy treatment every

three weeks instead of every week.

“I’ve had the best doctors and nurses,” she said. “They’ve been so supportive, just excellent people.”

Now retired after working 30 years at National City Bank, Randell counts a husband, son, daughter, four step-daughters and 16 grandchildren among her supportive family. She considers everyday spent with them and friends as a gift.

“Everyday, I wake-up and thank God for this beautiful day,” she said. “Because, I didn’t expect to be here after the diagnosis.”

Randell has also found support in the Gathering Place’s group for older adults with cancer, and appreciates the insight found in members’ personal stories.

“You learn from their experiences,” she said. “And they teach you that even if you go into remission, and it comes back, you can still survive it.”

Through it all, Randell maintains an enviable outlook on life.

"You have to have a positive attitude. Because, I'm living with cancer, not dying from it," she said.

The 11th Annual Race for the Place, a benefit for the Gathering Place, will take place at 9 a.m. June 5 at Beachwood Place, 26300 Cedar Road, Beachwood. The event is in celebration of National Cancer Survivors Day. Sun News is the media sponsor.

Both a 5K and 1-mile run/walk will be offered. The day also features family events at the Celebration Village, starting at 8 a.m.

The Gathering Place and its local centers provide support for those with cancer, as well as their family and friends.

For more information on Race for the Place or to register for the event, visit

touchedbycancer.org or call (216) 595-9546.

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