



Shantae Branch is a mother of two children, Jeremiah (25) and Jazyiah (13). She was diagnosed in early 2017 with Hodgkins Lymphoma. She has been battling ever since. She had a full time job but had to look for medical coverage elsewhere due to her inability to work. She is currently finishing up her 12 rounds of chemotherapy and trying to feel good every day. She has such high spirits that nothing can get her down. She is very true to her God and is letting him take control. She is so thankful for those around her who have reached out to help her.

Anthony Kastel is a 30 year old who was living life to the fullest with his girlfriend when he got the news of his diagnosis of ocular melanoma in May of 2017. He has battled through multiple procedures, losing the sight in his left eye. However, Anthony continues to hold his head high and take things as they come. Throughout our tournaments, Anthony was there almost every time to talk to the other honorees and lend his hand in support. He is a beautiful soul to so many.



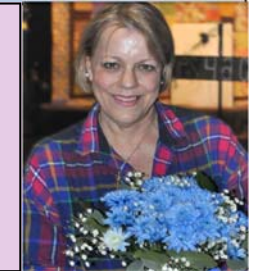
Dalila Garcia is 23 years old with one year old twins. She was recently diagnosed with TNK Lymphoma in August 2017. She is just beginning her family and is a hard worker at her place of employment. She is currently going through treatment, has lost her hair and is trying to stay positive. She wants to be there for her children so badly, although it's difficult when she is not feeling well. She knows that with the positivity and faith in God, she will prevail.

Jaime Ruiz' life was turned upside down in June 2016 when he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He worked with his doctors on the best treatment and ended up removing part of the pancreas that had the tumor in hopes that the cancer would not spread. During that procedure, they found that the cancer had spread to his liver. He is currently taking a year long chemo pill regimen and is doing monthly radiation injections. He feels that his health is in God's hands and believes that with prayer and the support of his family he will be cured.



Carol Stark is 73 years young and has been working as a switchboard operator for almost 30 years. She was diagnosed with endometrial cancer with cervical involvement in the fall of 2016. She underwent a total hysterectomy with the ovaries and lymph nodes sampling and removal. The procedure showed positive lymph node and myometrial invasion. She has already completed 3 chemotherapies and radiation therapy, she is now in the last 3 chemotherapies. She is positive that she will be able to return to work soon to be able to work at least part time in the job she loves.

Julia Shepherd was diagnosed with Stage 3c colon cancer in June of 2012. After coming to terms of what she was facing, she immediately started 45 rounds of radiation that lasted 18 minutes per day. After 6 months, she had robotic surgery to remove the tumor and some of her intestine and did a biopsy of her lymph nodes. She also had to receive 8 rounds of chemotherapy. She was determined to win this battle and became a warrior. As of September 2013, she was in remission. Julia needed help with dental expenses due to the chemotherapy rotting her teeth, she was very thankful for the help.



Melanie Hipsher was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer while 3 months pregnant with her fourth child in May of 2013. Thankfully the type of chemo she needed was not hormone based which meant she did not need to terminate the pregnancy. At 34 weeks, she had her first mastectomy and removal of 14 lymph nodes. She gave birth to her perfectly baby girl in October 2013. In December 2014, she was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Through it all, she feels blessed with the love she receives from her friends and family, with them she is determined to beat the odds!

Melissa Starr is a 38 year old mother of an 8 year old daughter who was diagnosed in June 2017 of cervical cancer stage 2b. She is doing her treatment down at Loma Linda 5 days a week for radiation which is hard for her to get to her treatments. Her parents are her big support to get her to and from her treatments. Her family is very supportive and she appreciates all they have done for her. She feels positive about her future and the need to be here for her daughter.

