



# SURVIVOR :: Adrienne Wright

In 2012, Adrienne Wright learned she had cancer for the third time.

A two-time survivor of Hodgkins Lymphoma, Adrienne received radiation treatment that placed her at a higher risk for breast cancer later in life. Vigilant about her own health and well-being, Adrienne knew she needed to get a mammography when she first felt a lump in her breast.

"I've been doing mammograms since I was 28 or 29," she said. "It showed up on a mammogram."

Not interested in another round of chemotherapy or radiation, Adrienne opted to have a mastectomy. She was treated at Palmetto Health Breast Center, where she built relationships with the doctors and nurses who took care of her. Her experience with her nurse navigator, Dottie Wodogaza, was particularly meaningful. Always there when Adrienne needed support or guidance, Dottie led her through the treatment process with ease and grace.

And after a year and a half of recovery and reconstructive plastic surgery, Adrienne finally began to feel like her old self again. While her experience was challenging, she was well supported throughout the treatment process. Her family and friends stood by her and helped her come to terms with her diagnosis. Now as a breast cancer survivor, she encourages everyone to get mammograms whenever they can.



L-R: Charletta Felder, Adrienne's mother; Adrienne; and Janice Rouse, Adrienne's best friend

***"Please, please, please get a mammogram," she said. "Don't ignore it and don't put it off. It's one of the best screening techniques we have."***

Adrienne also encourages others diagnosed to learn as much about their disease as they can. She felt much more comfortable with her diagnosis once she took the steps to learn about her illness.

"It's worth educating yourself. Sometimes, that helps you get past the emotional part of it. Learning about it and knowing what kind of treatment options I had was key," Adrienne said.

Last year, Adrienne spoke at a kickoff event for Palmetto Health Foundation's 27th annual Walk for Life and Famously Hot Pink Half Marathon, 5K + 10K. While she was apprehensive when first approached, she saw an opportunity to grow.

"Here's a good opportunity to share my story and feel a little bit better about it and maybe there's somebody in my same position," Adrienne said.

She also signed up for the Walk for Life and had a wonderful experience with her mother and best friend. The lighthearted atmosphere was incredibly powerful, and Adrienne appreciated the celebration and camaraderie.

"The Walk itself fits in with my lifestyle, which is health," Adrienne said. "Staying healthy and exercising. It's kind of my way of coping."

She also greatly values the Walk's fundraising efforts.

"It's worth doing the fundraising," she said. "The fundraising part is nice because it stays local."

Last year, proceeds from the Walk for Life and Famously Hot Pink Half Marathon, 5K + 10K funded an additional 3D mammography unit for Palmetto Health Breast Center. Adrienne values the local element because she knows how important fundraising efforts can be to people right here in the Midlands community.

"In 2018, everybody knows somebody, if it's a neighbor or a coworker, who has had breast cancer," she said.

Adrienne herself has experienced the benefits of Palmetto Health Breast Center and the numerous technological advancements made possible through efforts like the Walk for Life and Famously Hot Pink Half Marathon, 5K + 10K.

And by sharing her story, she hopes to raise awareness about breast cancer and continue to heal herself.

"Being able to share what happened to me with other people...that really helps. Talking to people really does help," Adrienne said.

**On Oct. 13, 2018, thousands of people will come together to celebrate breast cancer survivors like Adrienne and lift up those who are being treated. Join us!**

**Register: [WalkForLifeColumbia.org](http://WalkForLifeColumbia.org)**

**Walk for Life and Famously Hot Pink Half Marathon, 5K + 10K**  
a Palmetto Health Foundation signature fundraising event,  
benefiting Palmetto Health Breast Center

**Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018**  
**Spirit Communications Park | Columbia, S.C.**  
**#WalkForLifeColumbia | #FamouslyHotPinkHalf**