



Our Community Starts with You.

We need your support, compassion, and commitment to our mission that allows us to provide much needed programming and resources to cancer patients and their families, such as our Mastectomy Kits, Support Groups, and more.

No one should face cancer alone - and you make that a reality.

Donate today. Help us build community and provide hope.



***"I'm glad it was me
(not any of my family)
because I knew
I could handle it"***

I recently celebrated my 65th birthday (an age that I wasn't sure I'd ever reach) and with this milestone I have decided that I would like to share my story in the hopes that someone may identify with it and that it offers hope and support.

My name is Sharon Mascarin and I have been a member at Gilda's Club Barrie since 2012. To say that I have looked death in the face a few times in the last fourteen years would be an understatement.

- I was **first diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia on April Fools Day, 2009**. I didn't have to receive chemotherapy until June 2012, but then I endured six months of treatment at RVH.
- I was sick as a dog for three days after the treatment, welcoming the three weeks I had to bounce back before the next round. I joined Gilda's Club because I was coming to Barrie for treatment anyway and was **a huge fan of the philosophy of fellow patients supporting each other**.
- I've had **two relapses with my leukemia since 2012** and fortunately have a great oncologist and team who has saved my life and I'm now on a treatment that keeps me stable.
- I was diagnosed with **Stage 1 Breast Cancer in March 2019**. I had surgery and a month of radiation and have been well since then.

To say that I almost gave up would also be the truth. But what's kept me going is my stubbornness, my determination and the love for my family. I have a wonderful husband and two grown sons who were just teenagers when I was first diagnosed.

I wasn't giving into this disease because I had good men to raise and stuff to do!

Gilda's Club provides support and comfort in a way that nothing else can. You can meet with people who speak your language because they too are members of the cancer club you never wanted to join.

I am part of an exclusive club that no one wants to be a part of, but the caring and support makes a world of difference. I know it helps so many and I am thankful for what has been there for me when I needed it most.

Be well and stay positive
Sharon ♡
