

# Community Health Charities

## Ovarian Cancer: The Importance of Awareness



At age 44, Christine Sable had few worries about her cancer risk, especially since no one in her immediate or extended family had a history of cancer. This mother of two, wife, and full-time real estate professional was leading an active, healthy life. Then she received some shocking news that sent her and her family into a tailspin. After a few months of minor, persisting symptoms—mild abdominal discomfort that she easily could have ignored—Christine made what she thought would be a routine visit to her doctor. Later that week, she learned she had advanced ovarian cancer, a bleak diagnosis from which more than half of

women diagnosed at this stage ultimately do not recover.

During the following year, Christine endured major surgery and debilitating chemotherapy before finally enrolling in an ovarian cancer vaccine clinical trial led by Cancer Research Institute clinical investigator Dr. Kunle Odunsi at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York.

Ten years later, Christine remains free of ovarian cancer. She is beating the odds, and believes her immune system is keeping her healthy. To Christine, being aware of your symptoms and assuming a responsibility for your health are crucial to getting yourself the best treatment and staying free from cancer. She is active in the ovarian cancer patient community, where she spreads awareness of the disease and shares her own treatment experiences.