

## Eric's Story

When I started feeling symptoms, I didn't go to the doctor immediately—the thought that I might have cancer never even crossed my mind. But when I was diagnosed with testicular cancer, I needed someone who could help me navigate my cancer journey today. I sent a Tweet to **LIVESTRONG**, and within an hour I received a response with a link to the **LIVESTRONG** Guidebook. I remember opening the book and thinking, “Wow. They thought of everything.” From how to manage your appointments and medications, to how to tell your friends, family and coworkers, to dealing with your diagnosis in a spiritual way. On top of the Guidebook, the **LIVESTRONG** website had a ton of resources that I was able to access when I had questions during my treatment. The Foundation helped me become an advocate for my own health.

I was also able to utilize the **LIVESTRONG** Cancer Navigation Services from my initial diagnosis all the way through treatment and beyond. They helped me tackle some of the emotional and practical issues that I was having a hard time with on my own. While I was focused on the present, the Foundation continued to think about my future. I was only 28 when I was diagnosed; having a family was the furthest thing from my mind. I knew there were potential side effects from the chemotherapy that could leave me infertile. **LIVESTRONG** Fertility connected me to a sperm bank in my area, which I visited before I started treatment. I'm now 32 and the idea that I'll have a family one day is far more important to me than it was four years ago.

In addition to the tools and resources they provided, I think the biggest impact that **LIVESTRONG** had for me and my family was the sense of community and togetherness the organization provided to us. **LIVESTRONG** became an attitude for our family to live by. They helped me live my life the way I wanted to live it.