

Healing to New Heights

Independent Senior National Sales Director Lise Clark Looks to the Future

Mary Kay Ash shared a stirring message during my first Seminar 19 years ago. She spoke about her passion of fighting cancers that affect women. Then, she directed us to look at the person on our left and on our right and noted, "One out of three of you will develop some form of cancer in your lifetime."

Immediately, I knew this did not apply to me. My health was perfect. As an excited 26-year-old, I stood ready to take on the world as an entrepreneur! I later discovered it's amazing how God will use you in a way you never dreamed.

While dressing one day in 1998, I discovered a small, pea-sized lump on my left breast. This led me to have a routine checkup, followed by a mammogram and an ultrasound. Since I was initially told not to be concerned, I felt confident and reassured. Life was good. My Mary Kay business was building toward my unit's first million-dollar year goal. But a few days later, my gynecologist called and felt I should get the lump tested and removed as a precaution. I then learned how crucial early detection is.

I underwent minor surgery to remove the lump. Later that week, my doctor called and said, "Lise, I am sorry, honey. It is never easy to share this kind of information — you have invasive breast cancer."

Initially I felt denial, then shock. This just couldn't be happening to me — I was a busy mother of three children, ages 7, 4 and 9 months! My husband, Randall, rushed to comfort me, and we cried and prayed together. I quickly had a lumpectomy, followed by chemotherapy and radiation since the cancer had spread to my lymph system.

My husband became my partner in the fight, telling people "we have breast cancer." He diligently researched the disease and treatment options and created a file called "Healing." He gave me strength when my emotions got the best of me. Working as a team with our faith in God's

plan, we faced every decision with confidence and a healing attitude.

In addition to faith, Randall brought a sense of humor to our situation. When I began to lose my hair, he set up a family "buzz" session. First, he shaved his head, then he buzzed our 4-year-old son's hair and finally he gave me a Mohawk! All the kids gathered around and laughed at every step.

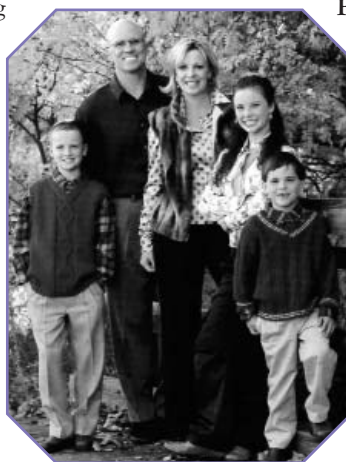
My real-life sisters, **Independent National Sales Director Monique Todd** and **Independent Future Director Renee Thevenet-Rodbell**, gave me immeasurable support. And, my entire area rallied — debuting in 24 months at Seminar 2002 with 28 Independent Sales Directors!

The sisterhood of our Company and personal friends also brought me great strength. I received cards from all over the United States through the Mary Kay network. These remain my rainy-day notes and confirmation that I am affiliated with a Company with a heart.

February 2005 marks six years since I completed treatment with no recurrence. Four things stand out as gifts from my experience:

- * My marriage blossomed to a greater level of commitment and love.
- * My faith grew to a deeper level as I relied on God's comfort and peace.
- * I learned how to ask for help when I need it and to receive gratefully.
- * I now know without a doubt that no one is immune to this disease — that early detection and treatment are crucial.

As I reflect on this journey, I see that my growth has happened in the valleys of my life. My ordeal ignited my passion and burning desire to soar toward becoming an Independent National Sales Director with a renewed spirit. I have an expanded mission, a stronger voice and more enthusiasm to share to help continue Mary Kay's legacy of hope. And I believe that hope in our future is POWER in our present!



Spanish-Language Web Resources Available

Did you know that the Foundation's Web site features links to valuable resources on cancer and domestic violence? Many of the linked sites contain information in Spanish.

These Web sites have Spanish-language pages that will help you learn more about cancer treatment and research:

American Cancer Society
<http://www.cancer.org>
Click on: "Información en español"

CancerCare
<http://www.Cancercare.org>
Click on: "En Español"

National Cancer Institute
<http://www.cancer.gov>
Click on: "Español" under "Quick Links"

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
<http://www.fda.gov/womens/menopause/default.htm>
Click on: "Spanish"

These Web sites provide information and services in Spanish pertaining to domestic violence:

<http://www.4woman.gov/violence/spanish/index.cfm>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/domesticviolence.html>