

*Excerpt from "Cancer Experience"*

It occurred to me [that I should] share the story of my ongoing adventures in cancer-land, and more importantly, raise awareness of why this pertains to you.

...I appreciate beyond understanding the support and kindness that even complete strangers have given me throughout this ordeal, but Lord knows I've even had it EASY compared to some of the other people I met in the hospital...

The point is this: I was healthy, strong, and happy. I have no history of cancer in my family whatsoever. This disease attacked me, of all people, straight out of the blue, and there was no way to see it coming, no way to know what caused it, and no way to stop it from happening again.

I wrote this to share with you my experiences, to show you the huge impact that it has had on my life, to show you how painful, how hard, and how truly difficult going through something like this can be. Not so that you sympathize with me, but so that you realize it can happen to you, your mom, your dad, your girlfriend/boyfriend, your siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, you name it... I'm not trying to worry anyone, but rather raise awareness as to the wide-reaching effects of diseases such as leukemia.

My request is simple... please, please find a charity, find an organization, find ANYTHING that supports research into a disease such as leukemia, HIV, breast cancer... ANYTHING... and support it. Give money, volunteer time, do anything you can, no matter how small and insignificant it may seem. You never know when something like this may be thrown into your lap, and you never know who may be affected by a disease like this... you think it can't happen to you (I sure didn't) and hopefully it never will, but so long as you're able to help – why not do it?

This experience has truly changed my life in ways that I never could have imagined. Priorities have been flipped upside down, and things that I wouldn't even have given a second thought to in the past I now look at as beauty in everyday life... I hope that you see the value that can be found in the lives of all of your friends and family, and that you take strides toward protecting their lives (and the lives of thousands of others), by supporting an organization which researches life-threatening diseases.

Thanks.

*Boone Cox*

*March 2006*