Melodie Henderson: Much More Than a “Cancer Story”

Faith and determination helped Melodie Henderson get through her breast cancer experience in 2017. That November, Melodie needed to have follow-up testing after doctors saw something suspicious compared to her previous mammogram just six-months prior. Though she had been through callbacks before, all with benign results, this time felt different. “I got a little anxious,” says Melodie, a wife, mother of three, and grandmother of four who lives in Virginia.

After an initial biopsy revealed that Melodie had ductal carcinoma in situ – abnormal cells that have not yet spread – in her left breast, she thought she would have a lumpectomy. However, her diagnosis turned out to be much more complicated: A later MRI detected a tumor in her right breast which had not been seen via mammography, resulting in treatment including a bilateral mastectomy, reconstruction, chemotherapy, and radiation. As Melodie coped with these complex diagnoses, her recovery was complicated by several “hiccups,” as she calls them, including serious post-surgical infections.

Throughout her experience, Melodie channeled her pragmatic optimism into helping others and became an ABCD Mentor in November 2021. “ABCD’s New Mentor Training was just incredible. It helped me make sense of my own situation, my own journey,” says Melodie.

Since joining ABCD, she has been matched with more than 20 women from across the country and is impressed by how much she and her Participants have in common. “We feel truly connected, which makes all the difference.”

For Melodie’s full story and to read more impact stories like hers, visit: abcdbreastcancersupport.org/our-stories/
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- Fundraising Events ............... $365,819
- Foundation & Corporate Grants ... $169,951
- Individual Contributions .......... $197,518
- In-Kind Contributions .......... $55,192
- Third party Fundraising .......... $55,192

**Expenses**
- Program Services .................. $897,249
- Development ...................... $140,477
- Administration .................. $103,250

**Total Expenses** ............... $1,140,976

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