



I am a cancer survivor, Cancer Bridges member, and volunteer.

Before my brain cancer diagnosis, I had a busy and fulfilling life. I worked two jobs while earning two associate degrees. I was 29 years old, and my days were filled with friends and social activities. I also dedicated time to volunteer at various organizations.

The day of my diagnosis, my life turned upside down. After years of severe migraines and a misdiagnosis, I received the devastating news. I had an invasive Astrocytoma, grade II tumor in my brain. I underwent a complete craniotomy, but still have an egg size portion of the tumor that cannot be removed. My mom Michelle, a nurse, was my advocate and caregiver through years of radiation, chemotherapy, and now the extensive health challenges that have arisen from cancer and treatment. Since my diagnosis, it has felt like my life stopped. I often felt so alone and isolated.

Cancer Bridges has had a profound impact on my life. I was introduced to Cancer Bridges through short-term supportive counseling and now participate in many of the different programs the organization offers. Attending classes like jewelry and cookie making, participating in dinners, and joining gatherings has allowed me to engage with others who share similar experiences, free from judgment. Cancer Bridges also linked our family with the Wills, Power of Attorney, and Advanced Directives community connection program which provided enormous relief from the burden of estate planning. The organization has provided me with a community where I feel accepted and understood.

**“This organization is very close to our hearts. Cancer Bridges allows us to escape from doctor’s visits, test results, and the worry and stress of Alli’s care, even if only for an evening.” – Alli’s mother**



I have found a renewed sense of purpose volunteering at Cancer Bridges, especially with the Family & Youth Program activities like Camp Clubhouse and Boo Bash. Contributing to the cancer community in this way has been immensely fulfilling, and the resilience of the children I interact with during Camp Clubhouse has inspired me. Despite being a volunteer, I found that the campers were also filling my cup with strength and positivity.

Cancer Bridges has become an integral part of my cancer journey, offering resources and a supportive environment for myself and my family. The creative expression classes, different social activities, and times spent volunteering have given me something to look forward to and a sense of fulfillment I have missed since receiving my cancer diagnosis. I have met new friends at Cancer Bridges, I enjoy seeing the staff and appreciate finding a space where I can be myself and connect with others who have been impacted by cancer.

The programs offered have been a source of strength, community, and joy, and I am truly grateful for the support it provides to individuals like me who are navigating the journey of a cancer diagnosis.

Thank you,

Alli Beckas



*P.S Give today to provide free programs and services to those impacted by a cancer diagnosis.*