

The Chattanooga Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure® is excited to announce Sandra Wilsey as the 2011 Race for the Cure Honorary Survivor Chair. Sandy has lived in Chattanooga for the last 10 years. Originally from Connecticut, most of her family still lives up North. She comes from a fun, loving, and supportive family with one older brother, two nieces, one nephew, and her parents who have celebrated 58 years of marriage.

In 1997, Sandy moved to Florida where she met the love of her life. They married in January 2001 while on a mission trip to the Philippines. Sandy and her husband, moved to Chattanooga in March 2001.

Sandy enjoyed working in the medical field for over 20 years. During this time, she was very fortunate to gain much knowledge and experience. She started as a medical secretary, working her way towards medical assisting and phlebotomy.

With a very diverse range of interests, some of Sandy's favorite hobbies and interests include camping and fishing, favorite local campground being Chester Frost Park; NASCAR racing having attended races and camped out in their home away from home, the camper. Very creative, Sandy also enjoys scrapbooking, making homemade cards, wreaths, and other crafts.

Originally diagnosed with Stage 2A Invasive Ductal Carcinoma In Situ Estrogen Positive breast cancer in March of 2008, Sandy is a proud 3 year survivor. Soon after her original diagnosis that Spring, Sandy had a recurrence to the bone and was quickly diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in July 2008. Possessing a strong sense of faith, Sandy fully believes God gave her the strength and courage to face the challenges she has been presented. The vital support of her loving husband, family, and friends has helped her to cope with her diagnosis. With the shock of her second diagnosis, Sandy became passionate about volunteering her time to help raise breast cancer awareness and give support to other breast cancer survivors.

Sandy became involved with Susan G. Komen for the Cure through a good friend and fellow breast cancer survivor who invited her to the annual Race for the Cure® in September 2008. After experiencing her first race, seeing all the breast cancer survivors, participants, and volunteers whose hard work and dedication raised money for local breast cancer awareness, treatment and research, Sandy realized how vitally important it was for her to become involved with Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. She now volunteers not just for Race but throughout the entire year participating in different events.

“It is always such a rewarding experience.”