

Road to Hope Community Support Foundation:
Client testimonial as presented in October 2012

Good evening ladies & gentlemen, if there are any brave enough to stay in a room full of women!

My name is Lyndi Mills. I am an only child, a wife, a mother of 4 young children, a Tupperware Consultant, a friend to many, a community volunteer, and last but not least A CANCER SURIVOR.

I am also a hoarder of food, Tupperware, and money.... all which in the past has helped me out of many troubled times. But last March [2011] my skills of preparation were put to the test; that is when I was diagnosed with grade 3 breast cancer, and it was aggressive having already spread to multiple lymph nodes.

After 6 months of intense chemotherapy my 8 months saving account was used up quickly ...my budget didn't allow for the multiple weekly trips to the Cross Cancer Institute that included very expensive pills (like a hundred dollars per pill) for managing side effects of chemo, meals while staying for 9 hours of treatment, fuel, and \$14 parking.

Thank goodness my Mom was off work at the time so we didn't pay for child care while I was in Edmonton for Oncologist appointments and chemo treatments. Then my husband completely quit his job to stay at home to take of me and our children.

My husband's co-workers and our friends raised some money to cover some of the costs; actually a lot of money, over \$8,000. But that wasn't enough, as we had to pay for the new transmission we needed for our vehicle.

All of my extensive preparing for the worst wasn't good enough -because I had no idea that the worst would involve so many extra costs over and above our current budget!

Finally after 6 months of chemo, and my surgery in September of last year [2011], I has hit a point where all my preparation just wasn't good enough; that is when I called Road to Hope . . . one of the best decisions I made during this crazy year and a

half journey I have been on. I have met so many kind, loving, thoughtful, and caring people because of Road to Hope.

Madena [current RTH Transportation Coordinator] was the best when it came to booking my many trips to and from the Cross during my 25 days in a row of radiation treatments, and also during the year that followed for maintenance and check-ups. The multiple trips to the Cross and the hospital did not stop even though I've been cancer free for a whole year. The last year has still been a huge financial strain and time burden on me and my family.

Without the Road to Hope I do not know what I would have done. My Mom couldn't stay off work forever and my husband had to eventually go back to work; so the volunteer drivers at Road to Hope got me out of a very bleak situation. I will never be able to thank them all enough. But I will try right now... Bill, Doris, Elaine, Jan, John, Kim, LeRoy, and Pat. You all taught me something with each trip we took together and I will always cherish the time you took out of your busy lives to help me when I was weak and tired.

Thanks for when I just needed to sleep on the way home, or for the personal stories we shared, or for the 'interesting', funny but sometimes inappropriate, conversations we had. You belong in a special place in my heart and I will forever be thankful.

Once my health is back I will be giving back by being a volunteer driver as well... but until then I'm gonna open my wallet and donate to the best charity I know; Road to Hope! Here's one hundred dollars my husband collected to shave his head before we took family pictures this Thanksgiving.

So I hope all of you will open your wallets too --- buy lots, donate what you can afford --- and know that every penny raised tonight will go to help someone like me... An only child, a wife, a mother of 4 young children, a Tupperware Consultant, a friend to many, a community volunteer and last but not least A CANCER SURVIVOR.

Thanks for your time. Enjoy the evening. Hugs and kisses to all who supported me!

Lyndi Mills October 12, 2012