



This is a story of my incredible battle with a deadly cancer. This is a story of unwavering support and survival. Ultimately, this is a story of miracles.

When you hear the words pancreatic cancer, you probably think of Steve Jobs or Patrick Swayze, or maybe you even think about suffering and death. But you probably don't think about survivors or miracles. Maybe that is because only 6% of those stricken with this deadly disease survive – many of the remaining 94% die within months of diagnosis.

That is why pancreatic cancer is one of the top cancer killers. And that is why my story is all the more miraculous.



I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in May 2010 and thus began the battle for me, my wife and our two young children. I endured weeks of chemo, radiation sessions, two surgeries (one took ten hours), kidney stones, a total of 20+ days in the hospital, a complete failure of my digestive system, and a weight loss of 66 pounds. But my family and friends and doctors never lost faith and never stopped supporting me every minute of every day; our faith was strengthened every step of the way. Someone was certainly watching over us and allowing me to fight another day.

It has been two years, and I am 100% back to my work as a Vice President at Highmark. I play basketball every week and do every single thing I did back in April 2010. Though I am back to my normal routine, every day I remember that the statistics say I am supposed to be dead.

Each day is a gift filled with little miracles – it is just up to me to notice. Every time I hug my little girl it feels wonderful and it is a miracle. Every time I play or watch sports with my teenage son it is pure joy and it is a miracle. Every night that I casually stroll around the streets with my beautiful wife and let the chaos of the day just melt away is a miracle.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the premier national organization dedicated to research and patient advocacy for pancreatic cancer. The organization works tirelessly to reach their vision of progress goal to double the pancreatic cancer survival rate by 2020. To me, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network's goal is to double the number of miracles. That is why I am so honored to be named as the Honorary Chairman for PurpleStride Pittsburgh 2012.

Please consider helping the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network double the number of miracles by participating in or providing support for PurpleStride Pittsburgh 2012 on August 5. Join us at the North Park Swimming Pool Lot and help us stride for miracles.

Dennis Cronin
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Honorary Chairman, PurpleStride Pittsburgh 2012

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