



JILL BACH HONOREE BIO

2023 Each Moment Matters Luncheon Honoree

When Jill Bach visited the doctor with mild exhaustion and a lingering cough, she never anticipated receiving a devastating Stage IV ovarian cancer diagnosis at the age of 44. This particular type of cancer has a survival rate of just 15%. However, with the unwavering support of her family, doctors, friends and the marvels of modern medicine, Jill defied the odds and has been in remission since 2007. As she reflects on her journey, she emphasizes the importance of finding a silver lining in every hardship.

Jill's cancer diagnosis had an unexpected, positive, impact on her daughter, Alicia. While Alicia always had dreams of being a doctor, her mother's journey and recovery inspired Alicia to pursue a career as a pediatric hematologist oncologist. Now as a practicing doctor, Alicia is helping children survive and thrive, a profound testament to the power of Jill's journey. "If I had to have cancer so that there is another doctor out there helping kids survive, then it would be worth it," Jill humbly shares.

While Jill personally triumphed over ovarian cancer, she is acutely aware that 15,000 women lose their lives to this disease each year. Determined to effect positive change, Jill co-founded the Be the Difference Foundation (BTDF) in 2012 with three other ovarian cancer survivors. The foundation's primary focus is to provide hope and support to those impacted by ovarian cancer by funding research, offering support services and raising awareness.

One especially impactful BTDF program, Caring for Her aims to improve the quality of life for ovarian cancer patients and their caregivers by providing individualized professional counseling, patient education, vetted referrals and science-based resources. Another program, Survivors Teach Students brings ovarian cancer survivors into classrooms to share their stories with future healthcare professionals. Created by Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance, BTDF facilitates the program in the DFW Metroplex. The objective is to enhance students' understanding of ovarian cancer symptoms and risk factors, enabling earlier diagnosis in more treatable stages.

Finding another silver lining in her cancer journey, Jill has gained a profound perspective on life and now seeks to savor each day to the fullest. Grateful for the opportunity to help others, she recognizes that what she calls a silver lining, others see as hope. Through the Be the Difference Foundation, Jill and her fellow advocates are spreading hope because where there is no hope, there is no fight.