

Citizen Spotlight

Cathy Moore

Often times you go to the doctor's office for aches and bruises expecting them to "kiss" your boo-boos and give you something to make the pain go away. It was just like that for Cathy Moore, except when she woke up, she found out she had stage 3C ovarian cancer.

In August of 2011, Moore went to the doctor for her yearly check-up, and to complain about a nagging abdominal pain that had been ailing her. Finding an unexplainable mass on her ovaries, the team of doctors quickly got her into an ultrasound and then to surgery.



Cathy Moore, seated, and her partner Beth Blackburn.

"When I woke up, they told me I had cancer – two months before my 50th birthday," said Cathy. The news floored Cathy and her partner, Beth Blackburn. "I spent five days in the hospital and every day the doctor would come in and say, 'I'm gone tell you every day until you hear what I am saying. Cathy, you have cancer.' I think I finally heard him on day four."

Beth had recently lost a close, long-time friend to ovarian cancer. She had walked closely with her friend, knew the warning signs, and understood first-hand what Cathy would soon experience. "She had no symptoms up until about 2-3 weeks prior," started Beth as she recalled how she did not foresee the diagnosis. "And because she had no symptoms, even I wasn't questioning it as being more than a routine check-up."

Cathy postponed treatment so that she and Beth could go to Las Vegas and enjoy their once-in-a-lifetime, fourth row seats at an Elton John concert just before starting an aggressive chemotherapy in October. After six excruciating rounds of chemo, Cathy was diagnosed N.E.D. – No Evidence of Disease – in February 2012.

The term B.E.A.T. is a way to quickly identify the symptoms of ovarian cancer. Bloating, Eating less, but feeling full, Abdominal pain, and Tell your gynecologist or general practitioner. "The key is to know your body," said Cathy. "If you know something's not right, go to the doctor."

"The big thing with ovarian cancer, or any gynecological cancer, is that you don't find out until you're in the late stages,

and the survival rates to overcome it are pretty slim," added Beth. "Most people are diagnosed at 3C and usually dead within five years. How can you get a movement going when people are barely getting the treatment done?"

Cathy started the Moore Life to Live Foundation under the umbrella of the CanSurvive support group. Hosting golf tournaments, the foundation raises funds that go directly back to supporting the women fighting cancer.

For more information visit: www.aSTATEofTEAL.org

Business Spotlight

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www.emccartyford.com

Earnest McCarty

"I first started selling Fords in 1953 at Bob Arnold Ford in Ensley," began Mr. Earnest McCarty, the 79 year old owner of Earnest McCarty Ford. "In that era, Ensley and Fairfield were the largest employers in the state, and Avenue E was called Automobile Row. Ford, Cadillac, Buick, Chevrolet, Plymouth, Oldsmobile, Pontic - every single car manufacturer was represented."

"As things usually do, the pendulum has to have a correction. I don't know what caused things to start swinging like they did, but the Ensley/Fairfield area went from 40 or 50 thousand people working there to 2,000 people. That caused the industry



Earnest McCarty standing in his recently rebuilt showroom.

to go where it's happening."

McCarty and his business partner moved to 3rd Avenue West just as the economy began to change in the mid 70's. On April 1, 1983 they moved to the Alabaster location where market studies were showing Shelby County to be the fastest growing county in the state.

"In 1983 the interstate wasn't open. You could not buy a nail, hammer, or two-by-four in the city limits of Alabaster, but the market studies showed that this was going to build up," continued McCarty. "Their market study was right."

Ford asked Mr. McCarty if he would take the Alabaster location. He and his business partner owned nine different busi-