



CT WOMEN OF HOPE

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Sharon Waxmundsky

The volunteer work we do with the CT Women of Hope is very important to me. Spreading awareness about ovarian cancer, educating, and supporting those diagnosed is crucial to early detection. The reason I am so passionate about our mission is that my mom died from this disease.

She had just retired and was looking forward to spending quality time with our family and finally taking the time to travel with my Dad. She had symptoms of bloating and indigestion and was under a doctor's care for close to a year prior to her retiring. The doctors never seemed quite too concerned and they diagnosed her with indigestion, gastritis, and irritable bowel syndrome.

Finally, after a year of medications without results for the previously mentioned diagnoses, the doctors became serious about testing her. We were all in shock when she was diagnosed with Stage IV ovarian cancer and sadly watched as the free time, she had eagerly looked forward to was now being spent on surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation. Our hearts were broken as she passed away nine months later, never having enjoyed any of the retirement she had worked so hard for and had earned. Ovarian cancer is very difficult to detect, and the symptoms can easily mimic other less serious ailments like they did with my Mom.



Volunteering with the CT Women of Hope has helped give me the opportunity to help educate other women and hope for early diagnosis. The loss of my Mom has motivated me to help others.