

DeAnna Rice 949.315.5164

[www.deannarice.com](http://www.deannarice.com)



DeAnna is known as a savvy entrepreneur, community leader and survivor! She is the true definition of a warrior, surviving cancer three times and heart failure that was caused by her second bout of chemotherapy.

She is BRCA1 positive and is actively involved in educating people regarding the importance of the genetic mutation and the life saving test available.

DeAnna's first diagnosis of cancer came when she was only 29 years old. She had three children (7 months, 7 years and 11 years). A breast cancer diagnosis came as a total shock to this busy Mom. She sought treatment at UCLA through their Multi Disciplinary program. DeAnna then underwent more surgery, chemotherapy that caused a complete and total loss of her hair, followed by 8 weeks of daily radiation therapy. She survived and grew tremendously from this survival.

The second diagnosis was a new breast cancer on the opposite side, she was 35 years old. At this time she had unbelievably given birth to her 4th child who was 8 months old. Literally a miracle baby after all of her chemotherapy. A perfect, beautiful girl. Again, she went to the doctors that had successfully treated her first cancer and again she endured more surgeries, more chemotherapy that once again left her bald and 8 more weeks of daily radiation therapy. She survived again. This time not totally unscathed. Her heart was severely damaged as a result of the devastating chemotherapy she was given. In the beginning she had no symptoms, so they watched the heart pumping function and she decided she would wait until she felt symptomatic.

In 2006 very rapidly her symptoms were upon her. She couldn't stay awake for more than a few hours at a time, she had no energy and could barely function. She sought out a cardiologist and they began testing to see how DeAnna's heart was doing. Not good, it turned out. She was in Congestive Heart Failure and had Cardiomyopathy. Her heart was functioning at a low 30%. The doctor immediately put her on heart medications. Very slowly and painfully they raised the dosages. Eventually she reached the optimal dosing and adjusted to the levels. Now her heart is pumping in a low normal range and they continue to monitor her.

DeAnna was lucky enough to meet a doctor through her television work that specialized in Breast Surgery and Genetic Testing. Dr. Lisa Curcio walked her through the testing procedures and counseled her every step of the way on what to expect either way...positive or negative.

Summer of 2007 and DeAnna was definitely BRCA1 positive. This would open up a new chapter in her recovery. A battery of tests. Everything came back clear. DeAnna was ready to make decisions about her future. At 42 it was being recommended to have a prophylactic (preventative) hysterectomy and mastectomy. Patients who are BRCA1 positive have a very high rate of cancer developing or recurring. DeAnna opted to follow the recommendations and proceeded with the first step, having the hysterectomy. Dr. Kathryn Cvar was recommended to complete this part of the treatment.

The hysterectomy went smoothly, recovery was great. A week after the surgery DeAnna got a phone call from Dr. Curcio that would once again shake her life. The pathology revealed that there was cancer already growing in her Fallopian tube, it had spread to her ovary and her abdominal washings were positive for cancer. Good news was the cancer was microscopic, completely unseen by the human eye. The bad news... it was there and it had spread.

After triple checking the diagnosis, ensuring that it was not a metastatic cancer, (old breast cancer spreading to the new area) she secured a highly regarded gynecologic oncologist, Dr. Jeb Brown. Because of the spread and aggressive nature of the cancer, DeAnna underwent another surgery to remove her omentum and debulk - rechecking all of the abdominal areas for additional cancer. During the surgery, her vena cava ripped and she lost over 850cc of blood before the rip was located and repaired.

Months and two transfusions later, she felt great and continued and completed her chemotherapy treatments. One surgery left. A radical double mastectomy. Dr. Daniel Kim, plastic and reconstructive surgeon, would be following Dr. Curcio's job removing the breasts and all the tissue.

Three months later, DeAnna, Dr. Curcio and Dr. Kim headed for the O.R. once again. Dr. Kim would be performing a "tramflap" procedure. This procedure used her own abdominal flesh and was moved up to recreate breasts. After a difficult procedure and a tough recovery, DeAnna is amazingly happy and has a positive outlook not only for herself, but for others who will be helped by the genetic test that she knows saved her life.

Each diagnosis brought with it a lot of mental, physical and spiritual confusion. Although she credits her faith with getting through and her beliefs kept her positive about her health, she faced heartbreak, disappointment and through it all she finally learned to love herself. From each of the heartbreaks she has grown stronger. From each disappointment she has learned to deal with life by using the wisdom she gained from all around her.

**DeAnna Rice is a cancer survivor with an important story to tell. Her hope by sharing this message is that more lives could be saved.**

**She would be happy to enlighten your organization's meeting or seminar. Please call or email her for availability. [deanna@deannarice.com](mailto:deanna@deannarice.com) 949-315-5164**