

Becky Breaux

I was born in Houma, LA in 1968, and my birth name is Rebecca Ann Blanchard. I grew up in a small town on the outskirts of Houma, called Bayou Dularge. I lived there until I was 10 years old, then moved to Woodlawn Ranch Road, in East Houma in 1979, before my 11th birthday. I have 3 siblings, an older brother and 2 younger sisters. I graduated from South Terrebonne High School in 1986, then, married my high school sweetheart just 11 months later in April 1987. He joined the Army, we moved to Fort Campbell, KY, where we lived for the next 4 ½ years, and that's where both my children were born. I have a son, Andrew who is now 32 years old and my daughter, Deanne, who is 30 years old. I have two amazing granddaughters, Averie and Baylie, who are 4 and 2 years old. I am married to Rene Breaux now, have 3 stepdaughters, who are ages 26, 24, and 21. We reside in Schriever, LA, just outside Houma, LA on 4 acres of property...I love the country living.



I knew very early in my life that I was a caregiver, having started babysitting for my parent's friends and family when I was just 11 years old. I was a co-caregiver to my maternal grandmother at the age of 15, when she moved into our home after suffering from a fall that resulted in a broken hip. She remained living with us for some time, while healing from the surgery, and I stayed with her every night. She was a lifelong smoker and not long after the hip surgery, we found out she had lung cancer. Her cancer had already spread to her liver and her journey with cancer ended in 1985, when she passed due to the complications of the disease. That was my first experience with cancer, and, it was a difficult one. I was very close to my grandmother, having slept over at her house many times during my childhood, helping her clean the house, and just having fun.

Fast forward to 1996, the very first Relay for Life event in Terrebonne/Lafourche parishes, hosted at Nicholls State University. I attended this event, on a hospital team (my ex-husband was employed there at the time in the radiology department), and was completely drawn in. My maternal grandfather had just been diagnosed with colon cancer and was undergoing treatment at the time. It was a traditional Relay event, going throughout the night, and ending the next morning with the sunrise. The overnight event was a symbolism of the journey a cancer patient goes through, from the time of diagnosis, through their treatment, and with sunrise, the celebration of their survivorship. I was so moved and inspired by this event, that I became a team member immediately and have been involved ever since. I became a team captain in the early 2000's, for the company team that I was working for. In 2005-2006, I joined the event committee and became the co-chair for our local event in Terrebonne Parish (the events split in the early 2000's, with Terrebonne and Lafourche hosting separate events). In 2007-2008, I chaired our event in Terrebonne and in 2009-2010, I co-chaired again. In 2011-2012, I chaired the event again, and just cannot see myself doing anything else. I remained on the planning committee for my local event, throughout the years I worked in healthcare management, and was approached in 2014 about becoming a staff partner for the ACS.

I was not looking for a job, was very happy, working at an Imaging Center in Houma as the office manager. I had been there since 2007, when we opened the doors to the center, and I was completely happy there providing care to patients. In 2012, cancer impacted our family once again, this time with one of my first cousin's being diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer. She had never smoked a day in

her life, and she was just 4 years older than me. Her cancer journey was exhausting, trying every trial medication or treatment out there, and it ended on May 2, 2012, just a few days after our Relay for Life event in Terrebonne. She called me to the hospital to talk to me the week before the event and told me she was promising to be at “my” event at the following week. She kept her promise and was there, I was able to take a picture with her, and she passed the following week. Her passing was difficult, not only on me and my family, but on our entire community. She was an elementary school teacher and loved by so many people. I applied for the job offer from the ACS in 2014, to pursue my passion for finding a cure, as a staff partner. I have not looked back one time and am so grateful for the opportunity to represent such an amazing organization.

Cancer has impacted my family greatly, with many of our members having cancer. My father is a multiple skin cancer survivor, my mom’s twin sister is a breast cancer survivor, I have a first cousin who is a leg tumor survivor, a god-mother who is a melanoma survivor, a sister-in-law who is a breast cancer survivor, my mother-in-law is a stage 4 lung cancer survivor, a god-father who passed from the complications of jaw cancer, my paternal grandfather was a prostate cancer survivor before passing from natural causes at the age of 89, and there are a few more.

My hope is that the fundraising we do in our community, and across the world, we will find a cure one day. And, although, there may not be a cure for every type of cancer, there have been tremendous results achieved with new treatment options, early screenings, and the vaccine that’s available to prevent cancer before it happens, the HPV vaccine. Without the research taking place, that’s funded by the ACS, these treatment options would not be available. I personally have more family members who are “survivors” than family members who’ve lost their battle. I believe they are still here with us because of the treatment they’ve received, that was not available years ago.

I will continue to support the Relay for Life of Terrebonne Parish and the American Cancer Society for as long as I am physically able to. I truly don’t see myself doing anything else and I look forward each day to waking up and helping others through their cancer journey. I love interacting with the survivors, caregivers, volunteers, sponsors, and our entire community. I love making a difference in so many people’s lives, and my only prayer is that my grand babies never hear the words “you have cancer”.

I turned 51 in November 2019, just one month after celebrating my 5-year work anniversary with the ACS. I’d like to think that I’ve made an impact in my community with the 20+ years of volunteerism and 5+ years as a staff partner, or community development manager. I plan to support our local Relay for Life event until I can no longer make it, which I hope is in many years from now.

Thank you for taking time to read my bio and history of how I became involved with our local event.