

2017 CSCGP Middle School Teen Essay Contest

3rd Place Winner

"DON'T WORRY MOMMY I WILL BE YOUR CRUTCHES"

By Marco Barila

My mother's name is Linda and when I was 2 years old I was told my mom had cancer. At the time, I really did not understand what cancer was, but soon enough I understood what it was and I really, really, really hate it. My mom had chemotherapy for 4 months and from what my parents tell me it was really hard on her. She eventually had no hair and no eyebrows and needed a wig. If you met my mother, you would see what an amazing person she is. Although she is in remission, she still struggles with the effects of cancer and chemotherapy every day, but still manages to take care of 3 boys, and that includes my Dad!

Cancer sucks – I think we all agree. Just last year I lost 3 family members in one month to cancer so you can say that I have become a faster learner in this subject. My Uncle (my grandfather's brother) died of prostate cancer, my cousin Steve died of lung cancer and my cousin Sal died of throat cancer. We lost 3 good men.

Over the years of my mother having cancer she went through a lot of stuff that she didn't have to go through; like a lot of surgeries and a lot of naps. I remember when she got back from surgery I was her "crutches". Also, I remember a long time ago I came home and saw a really, really, weird thing: a person with.... no hair. In my mind, I was saying to myself "who is this person in my house. But this "person" was my mother. At first I didn't know what was going on, but then... after a long talk I knew it was my job to take care of my mom. I knew something was wrong. Before all of this she was happy and loved to play with me and my brother. But after cancer, she took lots of naps and didn't play as much. I knew something was wrong and my father tried to explain it to me but I just thought she would get better a week or so just like I do when I am sick. I was really little so I didn't understand too much back then all I know is that she was my mom and I wanted to be with her all the time. I use to help her go up and down the stairs when she was too weak. I always said mommy hold onto me I will be your crutches. My mom was always at the hospital or doctors and she was sad she couldn't help me. But I didn't care I wanted to be there and help her. I wanted to be those crutches so she didn't have to worry about falling. My mom told me that it made her smile and laugh when I use to say that because when I was little I couldn't say crutches I use to say clutches. But it's OK my mom knew what I meant and it made me happy to see her smile.

Over the years there have been ups and down's and she still has surgeries every year but today, I am happy to announce (right now) that she is cancer free – and that is awesome!!