

Jenn Ortiz's Story

Her Brain Cancer Has Been a Blessing

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Jenn Ortiz is a fighter, according to the Ivy Center communications specialist, Jennifer Keeler, who nominated her for the National Hope Award. “When she was first diagnosed with Glioblastoma and learned she may have only 12- 15 months to live, she allowed one tear to roll down her cheek, then said, ‘No, not me.’ She was determined to beat it. When her brain tumor returned two years later, she was even more resolved to fight it. She enrolled in a clinical trial and began experimental treatment. Today, almost three years later, Jenn is healthy and filled with hope for the future. She’s focused on her future.”

In exchange for naps and sweets, Jenn “works out every day and eats healthy brain-boosting foods,” she says. I have had Temodar in the past, wear my **Optune** device, and get the Avastin drip using any means available to me to beat brain cancer. “To me, HOPE is determination. I make HOPE happen. Don’t wait to start realizing your dream Bucket List. Mine includes snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef and hiking the Hawaiian Islands. I was able to participate in a hike at The Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park, (where we lost firemen during a wildfire) and it was one of the most emotional things I ever experienced. We are enjoying exploring our beautiful state of Arizona.”

Jennifer’s hope: “I’m going to save ME and everyone after me. My husband Matthew hates when I say this, but I believe that Glioblastoma has been a blessing; I have been provided opportunities and time with my family I never had before. I’m home to take my young son to his activities. I get to participate in hobbies I never had time for, and I can make my mind, body, and soul a priority.” She and her husband go dancing every Saturday night.

Jenn was honored as runner-up in the **2023 National Hope Award**. The idea behind this award is to present it to a patient that INSPIRES others as well as End Brain Cancer Initiative by the way that they are living their life with their disease and how they are helping others. Jenn Ortiz is currently serving as a spokesperson for the End Brain Cancer Initiative and uses her voice to help others cope with brain cancer.

