

## Judy Leco's IMPACT Story

04/26/18



In March of 2017, my family was hit with a devastating blow - my mother, our rock, our go-to woman, the Memere to our babies, my best friend, was diagnosed with a glioblastoma. It was a massive tumor that covered 3 lobes of her brain. By the grace of God and through the work of His angels here on Earth at Brigham and Women's hospital in Boston, roughly 98% of the tumor was removed. We knew how lucky we were to live here in Massachusetts with some of the best hospitals in the world in our backyard. Between Brigham & Women's and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute we knew mom was, and is, in the best of hands.

After doing research in the weeks following my mom's surgery I came across the EndBrainCancer Initiative site and was instantly given hope. I contacted them and almost immediately a care coordinator reached out with words of encouragement as well as a wealth of knowledge and resources. We had a phone conference set up for not just me but my parents and my brother as well with an amazing team At EBCI. Many of the initial steps after a diagnosis of a glioblastoma had already been taken due to our amazing team in Boston but what EBCI gave my family and me was hope.



Judy with daughter Vicky and son David.

We were given information on doctors at Duke University who are top in the country when it comes to brain cancers. They scheduled follow up calls to check in on how my mom was doing and continued to have more resources for us. One of the most incredible ways EBCI has helped is to put us in contact with others who have either been caretakers for someone with a glioblastoma or someone who has actually been through what my mom was going through. Just a conversation with someone who "gets it" was such a help for us emotionally.

They are top notch when it comes to help in finding clinical trials. While my mom is not yet at the stage for trials, I know EBCI IS ready to help as soon as I ask. I am so thankful we have found this wonderful group of people who are so willing to help from literally the other side of the country. The EndBrainCancer Initiative made the darkest days feel so much more hopeful.

UPDATE: Mom had her most recent scan last Wednesday and it was stable again!! In fact, the scar tissue they had been watching has actually shrunk to almost nothing since February. She does not need more chemo and she is actually returning to work next month. We couldn't be happier and neither can her doctors. We both teach together at the same school so it will be so great to have her back.

Sincerely,  
Vicky Curran  
Loving Daughter

U: 05-06-18