

The Fight Pink Report™

My Hope Chest is helping women one breast at a time!

August 2009

My Hope Chest is an important non-profit organization focusing on the need of breast reconstruction for uninsured and underprivileged women. As the only nonprofit of its kind, focusing solely on this reconstruction, My Hope Chest believes that this surgery is truly "the final step in breast cancer treatment". As prevalent as Breast Cancer is in our society today, isn't it amazing that My Hope Chest is the first and only organization of its kind to address the issue of women who have lost their breasts? By enabling women who desire reconstruction to have it, My Hope Chests' goal is to return these deserving women to a normal life with feelings of "hope", self-worth and completeness.

About Breast Reconstruction

The difference between reconstructive surgery and cosmetic surgery can easily be confused. Reconstructive surgery improves the health of people as well as their appearance, while the focus of cosmetic surgery is specifically to improve one's appearance.

Breast cancer continues to be on the rise in United States causing many patients to undergo a mastectomy (removal of their breast(s) to save their lives. Following a mastectomy, patients can be left with a deformed chest wall and are often left with disfiguring scars. Can you imagine the devastating psychological consequences that this brings on a woman?

For some women, breast reconstruction is the saving grace after their terrible nightmare. The outcome of this procedure is designed to result in a natural looking breast that closely resembles the other breast or in the case of a double mastectomy, two beautiful, proportionate breasts complete with the nipple.

For those who desire breast reconstruction, the outcome will transform their appearance, help restore positive feelings of self-image and self-worth while aiding in the total healing from their cancer experience.

My Hope Chest knows that important work in breast cancer research continues to



make great strides in seeking a cure for the disease; yet what most people *don't realize* is that there are still *thousands* of survivors who struggle everyday to live *beyond the disease*. They may feel less than whole because of their cancer experience and sacrificing one or both breasts in exchange for their *life*.

Find out how you can help My Hope Chest at www.myhopechest.org.

My Hope Chest's Mission and Goals

The purpose of My Hope Chest is to help restore self-esteem and dignity to breast cancer survivors by facilitating and funding, as needed, reconstructive surgery for those who do not have adequate financial means to afford such surgery.

- ✂ To raise public awareness for this need, not only nationally but worldwide.
- ✂ To implement legislation that will require insurance companies to pay for mammograms for all women beginning at age 35 and for women 30 years old with a family history of the disease.
- ✂ To educate within the school system the importance of self exam from an early age.

Support Resources

- Cancer Fears Me www.cancerfearsme.org
- American Cancer Society www.cancer.org 1.800.227.2345
- Living Beyond Breast Cancer www.lbbc.org
- The Triple Negative Breast Foundation www.tnbcfoundation.org/indexhtml
- National Cancer Institute www.cancer.gov 1.800.422.6237
- The Young Survivor Coalition www.youngsurvival.org
- My Hope Chest www.myhopechest.org .
- Cancer Care www.cancercare.org 1.800.813.4673



Your Personal Promise™

**Getting the most out of making a Difference,
Ordinary people doing extraordinary things!**

Alisa

Your Personal Promise™

Whether a survivor or an activist, contact Fight Pink™ for details on how to submit "Your Personal Promise™" on how **you** are saving lives and helping to end breast cancer forever!

We are looking for real women and men who are survivors, activists, and want to contribute to the Fight Pink™ cause. We will post Your Personal Promise™ story; tell us how you are getting the most out of making a difference!

We take the stories put into our hands and from them build a bridge into other less informed lives, so that daily we pass over it on errands of education and awareness for the purpose of saving lives!

Alisa Savoretti founded My Hope Chest in the fall of 2003. A breast cancer survivor and Las Vegas Showgirl, she was 38 and without insurance at the time of her diagnosis. Billing herself as the "Lop-sided Showgirl" she gained media attention to the cause through a story on the local CBS affiliate when she returned to the Las Vegas stage as a Dancer only 5 months after finishing her chemotherapy - this time however minus one breast.

Like any survivor of breast cancer, Alisa was elated after overcoming the ordeals of a mastectomy and chemotherapy. But like many other survivors, the southwest Las Vegas resident was left with a constant and visible reminder of her hardships. Though she had been treated for the disease, she found that without insurance, the cost of reconstructive surgery hovered around \$25,000. Having to wait for over 2 years, she at last acquired

her own reconstruction through the group insurance policy at her job (which cannot deny pre-existing conditions) but realized the huge gap that existed for women suffering like herself. "I realized how my own self-esteem, confidence and self worth as a woman returned when I could look in the mirror and see my whole physical self once again - it was my healing, a rebirth and a godsend."

"I want to help more women in this area receive reconstructive surgery, and my big goal is to see My Hope Chest become a national organization. I want to be able to set up affiliates throughout the country, and I'm trying to get some fundraisers going. But for now, I'm just happy to be a survivor."

For more information on the My Hope Chest Foundation, visit www.myhopechest.org.

Alisa

Fight Pink™



8 Power Foods to Protect Your Health

Cherries

Black Tea

Celery

Quinoa

Mushrooms

Pomegranate juice

Sunflower seeds

Whole-grain cereal

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