

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Melinda Isaacs: Volunteer Highlight

After being married 11 years, Melinda Isaacs finally heard the words she had been waiting for, "You are going to be a mom!" Those words brought great joy into her and her family's lives. When she was six months pregnant, Melinda found a lump in her left breast and mentioned it to her doctor. The doctors thought it was probably a clogged gland that would resolve itself later. As the family celebrated her son Charlie's four-month birthday, the phone rang. It was the surgeon that biopsied Melinda's lump, saying, "I am just as surprised as you are, but you have cancer." In the blink of an eye, Melinda went from the beaming mother of an infant to a 32 year old woman facing cancer.

Melinda took her diagnosis, Stage 2B breast cancer, as a challenge. Her treatment included a double mastectomy, chemotherapy, and reconstructive surgeries over the next three years.



*Bald is Beautiful" - September 2004*  
Kevin, Charlie and Melinda Isaacs

Melinda began her long list of volunteer activities in October, 2004, participating in her first Breast Cancer Walk. She was carrying Charlie, then 10 months old. Since that Walk, she has participated in the annual ACS Relay for Life and Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. She also serves as a Reach for Recovery volunteer. Melinda was instrumental in raising almost \$4,000 for the Diagnostic and Treatment Fund through a Longaberger basket activity. She and her family do a lot of "behind the scenes" for the annual October Walk for Women. There is no task she is not willing to help with. She is a strong supporter of the SVBCCSP program. As a volunteer, Melinda makes herself available to other cancer survivors and their families.

Melinda is the principal of Clay County HS. Students, teachers, and county personnel joined her in the 2011



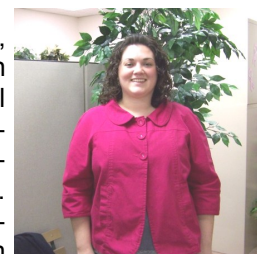
*One out of three WITH hair ain't bad!*

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Their Panther mascot took on new meaning with the "Panthers Go Pink" theme, as the community came together to march for the cause.

It has been seven years since Melinda's diagnosis. She often relies on her mom, Ona, and her sister, Loretta, who have joined her in raising awareness of breast cancer. Her husband and son Charlie, now seven years old, have been with her every step of the way. Melinda feels like she has been charged to share the message of faith, hope, and the power of a positive attitude whenever possible.

## Meet Our Staff

WVBCCSP welcomes Megan, the new Cancer Information Specialist in Region 4. She will be working in Fayette, Greenbrier, Nicholas, Randolph, Pocahontas, and Webster counties. Megan received her undergraduate degree in Social Work from Mountain State University in 2006. In 2008 she received her Masters degree in Social Work from WVU. Megan said she was work in long- term care and most Hospice. Megan is pleased to be WVBCCSP.



**Megan Ward**

privileged to recently with working for

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## Meet Our Staff

WVBCCSP welcomes Anna Reno, the new Cancer Information Specialist in Region 5. She will be working in Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Ritchie, Pleasants, Wirt and Wood counties. Anna graduated from Glenville State College as a first generation college student in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. While attending Glenville State, Anna worked for the Rural Health Education Partnerships (RHEP) Program.



**Anna Reno**

## WV Youth In Action



During the last two seasons, the basketball program at **Guyan Valley Middle School** felt the heart rendering impact breast cancer can have on a community. Penny Hudson, long time gym teacher at the school, and girls' basketball coach Randy Adkins' aunt, died of breast cancer. (Penny also had a grandson on the boys' basketball team). The boys' and girls' basketball teams, the school, and the community felt a tremendous loss. The basketball program, middle school, and community joined forces to fight against breast cancer.

The girl's basketball team dedicated the 2010-2011 basketball season to raising awareness about breast cancer as well as raising money for the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund. The team's motto during the season was "Playing for a Reason." They wore new pink and white uniforms all season, complete with pink ribbon socks! At each of the home games, individuals and businesses donated \$1 to the cause, then had their name put on a pink ribbon. During the last home game of the season, the game was a "pink out"! Everyone was asked to wear pink! Can you imagine a gym filled with people wearing pink? A bronze plaque was dedicated to Penny's husband and family that night. Penny's husband paid the entry fee for every woman that attended the game, as another donation. All of the donations went to the Diagnostic & Treatment Fund.

The basketball coach and the Principal, Jeremy Brunty, said: Our season was very successful in many ways, but one thing we are extremely proud of is to be able to make this contribution. On behalf of our community, school, and basketball program, it is our pleasure to donate eighteen hundred dollars to your organization to assist in the fight against cancer.

Last Fall, the **Meadow Bridge High School Key Club** helped sell quilt tickets for the Region 4 Quilt of Hope. They were so excited by this project that they decided to raise breast cancer awareness by making their parade float in the shape of a pink ribbon. The girls and boys in the Club worked hard on the float. The girls wore pink shirts during the parade, some of them indicating that they were cancer survivors! One of the Club members is a cancer survivor; another member's mother had cancer several years ago. The Club also asked breast cancer survivors to ride in the truck that pulled the float in the parade.

Cancer touches everyone's life in some way. Both groups of young people stepped up to make a difference. Both of the communities have a better understanding of the effect cancer has on people. It not only affects the person that is diagnosed, but their families, friends, and the whole community.

