

On July 11th 2005 I stood staring at my mammogram slides, which looked more like a map of the stars and planets, as the doctors words echoed in my mind "it looks like breast cancer". All the air seemed to have been sucked from the room and I struggled to stay upright. I couldn't even look at my husband but I felt his protective arm around me. It seemed like an eternity before the doctor spoke again, "You need to see a surgeon as soon as possible".

For months I had been fighting with my family doctor finally convinced her that I needed a mammogram as she still believed that women under the age of 40 did not get breast cancer. The anger we both felt was so blinding we struggled to set it aside so we could focus on our upcoming battle plan against the cancer. My husband gave me whatever I needed in that moment, he listened, he shared my tears and he allowed me the silence to find my bearings. Taking pen and paper I started pouring out my feelings into a letter to myself formulating my battle plan at the same time. When I finished I titled the work "Sea of Pink©2005" and saved this until I completed my surgeries and treatments.

When I shared my letter/poem with my husband and my father they both say that this work had to be shared for all. One thing led to another and by the fall of 2006 a recording of my reading the poem was playing on our local radio station as part of a radio marathon for breast cancer research. They received so many requests that one of their producers decided to mix the recording with a song – we chose Sarah McLachlan's song "Angel". Permission was arranged to produce 5000 copies of this mix and with the help of Scotiabank we were able to cover all production costs and donate 100% of the retail price to breast cancer research.

The cd "Sea of Pink – Angel" sells for \$5.00 plus shipping and handling and has already travelled all across North America, Europe, Australia and the Middle East. Since releasing the cd for sale in January 2008 we have raised \$20,000.00 and donated from the sales. We have already approached Sarah McLachlan for a second run so we may continue to make a difference when we sell out of this first run.

As each cd sells we celebrate our ability to work together with family, friends and total strangers bringing us one step closer to funding a cure for breast cancer. In my heart of hearts I truly believe if we can find a cure for breast cancer - we will have the secret to curing all types of cancer.

Thanks for your support in the fight against cancer!

Fiona McGarry-Gatzke