

The Healing Journey

BY ADRIENNE

Adrienne is a 61-year-old woman who relocated to Aspen from Germany four years ago. Diagnosed with Mantel Cell Lymphoma, she has been surviving and thriving through her treatments with courage, tenacity, humor, and grace. As an example of her strong spirit, just after receiving her diagnosis, Adrienne insisted on completing a pre-planned trip skiing the Canadian Rockies with seven men half her age and then returning to Aspen to begin her cancer treatment with the same determination and energy she brought to the mountain. Here is her story about how Pathfinders has touched her life.

“I was a specimen of health, living the Aspen Idea — hiking the Highlands Bowl three times in a day, skiing over 100 days a year, working 50+ hours/week and relishing all of the activities that come with living in a mountain town. In January 2009, I was diagnosed with Mantel Cell Lymphoma. The shock of a cancer diagnosis was profound, as I had no symptoms and felt great.

Shortly after beginning my healing journey, I was introduced to Pathfinders. I have been helped by this great organization in so many ways. Being relatively new to the valley and with no family in the area, I have truly benefitted from the instant support network Pathfinders provided. From weekly meetings with my Pathfinder counselor, phone calls to check in with her while I’m receiving treatment in Denver, meals from the amazing Pathfinder Angel volunteers who deliver delicious, nutritious food to my door — all of this help greatly enhanced my quality of life



during this difficult time. I have enjoyed attending the Pathfinder’s cancer support group as it has provided me the opportunity to connect and learn from others who have been through what I am experiencing. I have also received some financial support to help fill the void created by being a sole provider as I have been only able to work part-time during my treatment.

The recommendation from my treatment team is to have a stem cell transplant. This requires that I complete a month of in-patient treatment in Denver and remain close to the hospital for two months after the treatment. I plan to be back home in Aspen in late September, getting in shape for the ski season. While at times I feel overwhelmed, I know that my network of care with Pathfinders will be there for me during the difficult times and through my triumphs. I am grateful to Pathfinders for helping me navigate this challenging time in my life.”