

# Strider Spotlight



My name is James Keegan and this is my 3rd year as part of Real Men Wear Pink and 4th year at Making Strides as a team member of The Rovers. Six years ago, my wife and I were laying in bed and she felt a lump under my skin in my left breast. I felt the lump and agreed it didn't feel like anything I'd ever felt before. I scheduled an appointment with our family physician within a few days. After the examination there, as well as a mammography and a needle biopsy within the following days, I was stunned when I received a call that the results revealed the lump was cancerous.

Understandingly, my wife was quite distraught. She recalls, late one night, calling the American Cancer Society's Hotline. She spoke with a young man in Texas. She doesn't remember what he said to her but him just listening to her fears really made a difference. She remembers he had a calming voice. One reason we support the American Cancer Society through Making Strides Against Breast Cancer & Real Men Wear Pink is because of that young man and the ACS having that service who calmed a frightened wife of a cancer patient in the middle of the night.

My life has changed, big time, in these past 6 years. OUR lives have changed (my wife & I have been married for 48 years). I look at every day as a gift. We try not to waste a precious moment of living now. Cancer does that to you. I have become vocal in telling strangers about my breast cancer and educating all that YES, men get breast cancer too. Our RMWP fund raising is based on personal relationships with the reminder that cancer can affect anyone just as it struck me, and that breast cancer affects both men and women. We reach out to everyone we know as well local businesses we frequent in an attempt to raise funds. We also remind everyone of the great work being done by ACS not only in research, but the many other services and support provided. I look forward to continuing to help others, wherever I can, be it at speaking engagements, health fairs, fashion shows, running 5Ks, & other breast cancer events. See you on October 20th!

