

April 29, 2016

Dear Friends of Thoroughbred Figure Skating Club,

In February of 2014, my mother, Eunice Logan, was diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer. By the time she was diagnosed, the cancer had already spread throughout her entire abdomen, but she had exhibited almost no symptoms. To say that we were completely shocked is an understatement. An active, healthy woman with no history of cancer in her family, none of us could recall a time when our mom was sick. She now she faced a very grim prognosis: the survival rate beyond two years for women diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer is less than 20%. The reason that ovarian cancer is such an insidious and deadly disease is because it often reaches an advanced stage before one can detect any symptoms. This was certainly true in Mom's case. I was at the rink getting ready to teach when I got the news. It's a phone call I'll never forget. Less than a week after her diagnosis, Mom underwent 8 hours of surgery at UK to remove as much of the cancer as possible, followed by nearly three weeks of recovery in UK's Markey Cancer Center. Immediately upon returning home Mom began an intensive chemotherapy regimen that has continued nearly unabated to this day.

I've always known my mom to be a lady who hikes up mountains in Oregon, who carries a canoe on her back from one lake to another in Minnesota, and who skated with me at 5AM nearly every weekday for 13 years. When I was a toddler, I can remember having to almost run through the grocery store to keep up with Mom; now I see her struggle, at times, to walk across a room without losing her breath. But my family is still running to keep up with her. Despite her illness, despite losing her hair, despite having weeks where she can barely lift herself out of bed, our mom continues to be the mom we've always known: quick to love and laugh, always interested in experiencing new things, and – what astounds me the most – she continues to encourage *us*, to tell *us* that all will be well, no matter what happens. My mom is my hero.

When I started skating at age 9, Mom decided that if she was going to drive me 30 minutes to the rink on a routine basis that she would learn how to skate, too. And skate she did. Mom became an avid figure skater – I think she enjoyed it more than I did at times – and she was just as intense about it as any of the kids. For years we would get up at 4AM Monday through Friday and skate for three hours before school. By the time she hung up her skates, Mom had passed her Adult Bronze Moves in the Field and Free Skate tests, and her Pre-Bronze Dance test. She competed at competitions, skated 5 years in a row in TFSC's Nutcracker on Ice, served TFSC as a volunteer in a number of different roles, and handmade every outfit that my dance partner and I wore in our years competing together. I understand and appreciate all of all the hard work, love, and care that our current parent volunteers pour into our club because growing up I saw my mom doing the same thing for TFSC. The tradition continues!

This year, my mom became the President of the Bluegrass Ovarian Cancer Support Group. This great organization has been a godsend to our family and to countless other families in the central Kentucky region whose lives have been affected by ovarian cancer. The group's mission is two-fold. First, they provide a network of love and support for ovarian cancer survivors and their family members by holding events throughout the year, including a monthly meeting and an annual banquet, where members can come together to share their stories and encourage one another, remember loved ones who have succumbed to the disease, and learn about the latest in ovarian cancer research and treatment. The second part of their mission is to raise awareness in the community about the disease and to encourage women to undergo regular screenings. They accomplish this goal in several ways. First, members of the group, including my mom, give presentations to medical and PA students at UK, so that our future

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healthcare providers know what kind of symptoms to look for when diagnosing and treating their patients. Second, the support group prints and distributes materials alerting women about the disease, the types of screenings that are effective, and where they can go to get screened.

The Bluegrass Ovarian Cancer Support Group is not affiliated with any national organization. They are a 501c3 charitable organization staffed entirely by volunteers. This means that 100% of your donation will go to support the group's work. On behalf of my family, the Thoroughbred Figure Skating Club, and the Bluegrass Ovarian Cancer Support Group, I want to thank you very much for your generous support of this worthy cause.

All the very best,

Ben Logan

TFSC Vice President and Coach at the Lexington Ice Center