

Woman Swims Patagonia Lake For Breast Cancer Awareness

By Samantha Nicholas

The Tombstone News

There is a saying by an unknown author that states, “True strength is keeping everything together when everyone expects you to fall apart”.

Mary Gooze, 63, embodies this statement. Gooze has Stage 4/Metastatic Breast Cancer. Breast cancer is assigned to 1 of 4 stages at the time of initial diagnosis and treatment. The stage is determined by the size of the cancer and whether it has spread to lymph nodes under the arm or to more distant parts of the body such as organs like the lungs, liver, brain or bones.

Most people would have given up at this point but not Gooze. Instead, she swam Patagonia Lake on Tuesday, March 24, 2015. “The water was 58 degrees, it was a bit chilly,” said Gooze. “Not to be deterred by a little cold, I plunged in and tackled the chilly water one steady stroke at a time”.

Gooze told The Tombstone News that she is swimming lakes around the country to raise funds for a group called METAvivor. 100% of their funds raised go towards breast cancer research. METAvivor works to specifically raise awareness about the truths of metastatic (stage 4) breast cancer and the inequities in funding for this form of the disease.

“The funds for breast cancer research are lacking and people are just not aware”.

Gooze resides in Madison, Wisconsin and is visiting the State of Arizona. “When I head home I am going to do another swim at a lake near Kansas City.”

“40,000 of us die from this disease every year,” said Gooze. “The buzz on Twitter every #MetsMonday is “Don’t ignore Stage 4! I want the world to see what we are capable of doing. By swimming long distances across as many lakes as I can in 2015, I will prove that we are alive and thriving but need more research dollars to continue the fight”. Last August, Gooze swam 2 1/4 miles in Lake Washington as part of a charity swim.

For more information about METAvivor visit their website at metavivor.org. The Tombstone News would like to congratulate Mary Gooze on her success and wish her the best of luck in her fight against cancer! Stay strong Mary!