

## Kelly Cason

Hello! My name is Kelly Cason and I am from Forsyth County. I was diagnosed with Stage II Her2 positive breast cancer which is a breast cancer that tests positive for a protein called human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), which promotes the growth of cancer cells in November 2012. I had just turned 31 when I found a lump hoping it was just a cyst. Since I was still younger than the usual age of women who develop breast cancer my primary and even associates at the mammogram clinic thought it would be nothing. My late aunt was diagnosed a week after me and we fought the last few years together.



I had been on the Susan G. Komen committee at PepsiCo for 5 years prior before being diagnosed but never knew how much the patients actually go through. I always had a passion for the cause naturally, ever knowing the cause would save my life. I feel like I'm an even better person. Life has a much deeper meaning to me now. I enjoy the little things more now like hearing birds chirp or seeing lightning bugs in the summer. It is hard to believe that those are things that were almost taken from me. Over the last couple years of treatment you meet so many people with different stories and even different outcomes. I really must say I have met so many wonderful caretakers, survivors, and doctors who helped me along my journey and whom I will never forget. I am now co-chair of Wake Forest Baptist Cancer center Patient Advisory council. It has truly been a joy to share my ideas and see them come to fruition. Recently my idea to have patients be able to have food delivered to chemo treatment area was approved and now even

functioning. So If I can take my experience and help others now or even in the future that makes me smile.

I think the misconception that cancer has to run in your family for you to get it is a huge myth. Cancer is not in my genetic makeup even with my aunt being diagnosed a week after me. I had testing done. I begin my relationship with Komen last year as an initial volunteer. I decided to be a face because many African American women are dying from breast cancer. I would like all ages to see that it can happen to you so get your examinations regularly and go to the doctor. I hope to educate all who will listen about breast cancer and how they can save their own lives or the lives of others by contributing or raising money for research. Research dollars from Komen saved my life. So it's my honor to be a face for Komen. I really feel that because of Komen I am here

today. My mission statement is "Let's knock out Cancer!" and I will be wearing my pink gloves while saying this LOL! I want to hopefully touch someone either in person or even by my picture and my story, if I can save a life I'm happy. I'm just ready to experience the Journey!!!