

Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center Foundation

Many times the work of the Shepard Cancer Foundation is noticed in bits and pieces. In 2019, we had the privilege of meeting a patient who the Foundation was able to help in many ways. What we weren't expecting were the meaningful ways that this patient would help us touch the communities we serve.

Avery Parker attended our free breast cancer screening in Belhaven in October 2018 after feeling something different in her breast. As many do, she had put off having it checked for quite some time and had rationalized all the things the area could be instead of cancer. Thankfully, that evening she met Dr. Daniel Richardson of Vidant Breast Clinic. A team member from Vidant Women's Care immediately set Avery up for a mammogram. In addition, a representative of the Beaufort County Health Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) program was also on-site and quickly enrolled Avery in the financial assistance program that would help with the expenses of the diagnostic tests she would need in the coming weeks.



Avery Parker

Dr. Richardson saw Avery the next day in his office, diagnosed her with advanced breast cancer, and she was immediately referred to the Marion L. Shepard Cancer Center to begin treatment. He performed breast conserving surgery, which was very important to her. Avery went on to complete eight weeks of radiation therapy. During that time, she was forced to take a leave of absence from her job, her only source of income. Neuropathy from treatments had caused Avery foot pain requiring her to purchase special shoes. Thankfully, the Shepard Cancer Foundation was able to step in and purchase these shoes for Ms. Parker as well as provide gas cards to help with her daily trips to the center for radiation treatment.

During a community outreach planning meeting in January of 2019, Dr. Richardson mentioned Avery's strength, determination and positive attitude while navigating her cancer journey. What happened next was powerful! We invited Avery to join us as a guest speaker at our Dinner with a Doc breast cancer awareness event in October. At each event, she joyfully shared her personal story and the importance of being screened for early detection to a room full of attentive listeners who were able to make their own personal connections to Avery's story.

Through the Shepard Cancer Foundation's patient assistance funding, the Foundation is able to make a difficult season a little easier. The Foundation also financially supports the local BCCCP program. In addition, the Shepard Cancer Foundation provides funding to support the mind, body and spirit of cancer patients, survivors and caregivers through our complementary and supportive therapies like yoga and massage, and support activities like journaling, knitting and our annual Survivors' Day event. We are thankful for Avery Parker sharing her story and the many ways the Shepard Cancer Foundation is able to support cancer patients and their families.



Shepard Cancer Foundation
Named Washington Beaufort County
Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year



Over \$6,600
Provided in Transportation
Assistance to Patients.

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