

Charity Name: Beyond Boobs! Website: <http://www.beyondboobs.org>

Independent/Unaffiliated Charity

Code: 08039

Title: Out of the Valley

Submitted: June 18, 2015 by Carolyn Cuthrell, carolyn@beyondboobs.org

Beyond Boobs! is dedicated to healing and saving lives by supporting young women diagnosed with breast cancer

while providing breast health

education for all. Here's

Becca's story; she was

diagnosed at age 34:

“People often ask Becca why she volunteers for Beyond Boobs!. Her answer is both extremely complex and unbelievably simple: Beyond Boobs! saved her life.



And she wants to help Beyond Boobs! help other breast cancer survivors.

Breast Cancer is a life-altering journey. Becca says that with three little words, “you have cancer”, the ground feels like it gives way and you feel like you are falling into a valley. In just a few weeks, Becca says she lost her relationship, precious time with her daughter, her breast, her hair, her caregiver, her dignity, and nearly her job. Only able to eat smoothies and broth, she became little more than a skeleton. Staring at the bare walls in her unpacked apartment, she says she endured the horrible physical and emotional effects of chemo, convinced the reaper was waiting just outside her door.

At her lowest moment, she pondered whether a quiet, quick, departure would be better than slowly wasting away. Her friend Sara urged her to call Beyond Boobs! for support. In a desperate last ditch offensive in her battle, Becca called a number at

2 am. A Beyond Boobs! support group facilitator answered, talked her off the ledge, lifted her spirits up, and got her to meetings, where the amazingly positive women of Beyond Boobs! provided unbelievable life experiences, positive support gatherings, incredible friendships, and eventually the opportunity to help others. The Boobers, our affectionate name for survivors, empowered Becca to reclaim and renew her life. One day Becca says she hopes to pay it forward by answering a 2 am phone call for someone as broken as she felt she once was. If it weren't for Beyond Boobs!, Becca says wouldn't be living the full, rewarding, and improved life that she now has.