



Laura Wooldridge

DCIS Breast Cancer - Stage 0 at the time of diagnosis but upgraded to stage 1 after pathology found invasive cells in the right breast and 3 other kinds of precancerous cells in the other breast.

My breast cancer was discovered during my routine mammogram in September of 2017. 2 calcifications from my right breast were biopsied and both were positive for DCIS cancer. After consulting with a general surgeon, I was referred to PRMA Plastic Surgery group where I met with Dr. Steven Pisano. He explained DIEP reconstruction to me and after conducting some research, I decided that this was the treatment option for me. On October 24th of 2017, I underwent about 14 hours of surgery to have a double mastectomy and the transfer of abdominal tissue to build my new breasts. Recovery took about 2 months and then I had a Phase 2 surgery in March of 2018 to complete the process.

I became involved with ThriveWell by meeting other breast cancer survivors in a group called Overcomers and my friend Julie Hudson told me about all the programs offered at ThriveWell. I met with the director, Josee Battle and I have been taking part ever since whenever my schedule allows. My favorite part of their program is the monthly Artful Healing. Josee arranges wonderful art projects that we can enjoy.