

PAYCHECKS OF THE HEART – Sr.NSD Pat Danforth

In any Mary Kay appearance, Pat Danforth is committed to speaking for about five minutes on something that has nothing to do with cosmetics or the opportunity.

The gist of her message is: “Take care of yourself. Be responsible for yourself.” She strongly believes that self confidence and a positive attitude will help in any of life’s situations, and Pat is certain that she would not be here today had it not been for Mary Kay Ash’s constant messages about women and cancer.

When a yearly mammogram indicated a mass in her breast, the subsequent ultrasound was interpreted as “OK”. Pat kept pursuing a more accurate diagnosis for she knew that she exhibited the warning signs of cancer. When a biopsy was done, she was given the results. “Malignant.”

Pat --- because of her faith and her Mary Kay training --- knew that she was strong and well prepared to fight. She faced a very aggressive cancer without going through the usual stages of shock, denial, and anger before coming to the stage of acceptance. From the beginning she said, “All right, what are we going to do about this?”

And with that, Pat set off on a cancer-fighting course that would find her looking like she just stepped out of *Vogue* through several surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation, and various complications. Throughout the months of health challenges many people would be surprised at her circumstances and comment, “But you look so good!”

Looking good was Pat’s best defense. It strongly impacted her outlook and that of numerous other cancer patients with whom she had contact. “Mary Kay always impressed upon us the importance of *looking our best* so that we could *be our best*, and I firmly believe that. My hair and eyelashes were gone, I frequently had tubes attached to me, and my hand and arm might be swollen, but I was going to do my best not to look sick.”

Pat believes that her faith, her family, and her Mary Kay attitude provided the difference that helped her doctors to treat her successfully. She feels that all of those aspects of her life were strengthened by the cancer experience, and she wants to share that strength with others. “My years in Mary Kay helped give me the tools to fight this disease, and Mary Kay herself would expect me to share that in the hopes of helping others.”