

Getting to Know You: Spotlight on Community Members



Stacey Dentz (47)

Where do you live? Monroe, NY

What do you like to do? I have taken up many hobbies. I have knitted many scarves and I'm now knitting a sweater for myself. I got into making bracelets with cool beads from Michaels. My sister got me into beading after I was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in 2017. I also have been coloring adult coloring books and do word finds. All of these activities are therapeutic and assist with me relaxing, as well as keep my mind busy.

What's something exciting that has happened for you recently? I have been able to drive to physical therapy, chiropractor and will be getting my 3-month scheduled CT scan at Sloan

Kettering Hospital at their satellite site in Bergen county, New Jersey. Unfortunately, I have been in a lot of pain and the CT scan showed a tumor pressing on my spinal canal, so I will be starting radiation. Another hurdle in life I will get over.

If you could do one thing to change the world, what would it be? Find a cure for Bloom syndrome and find a cure for cancer and eradicate all cancers.

Who is your best friend, and why? My husband is my best friend. He has been here with me dealing with pancreatic cancer for the past three years. He lightens up my spirit and always says "You will beat this cancer."

What advice would you give to younger friends with Bloom syndrome? As I got older, I learned to have positive thinking and set goals in life that you want to accomplish. You are capable of learning how to compensate for activities that may be a little hard. Just because you may have a genetic disorder, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. I knew at a young age that I wanted to work with special needs children. I have been a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant for about 20 years working with 3 to 5-year-old children with special needs. I like my job and am able to do treatment activities at their level; therefore, the children feel more comfortable with engaging in therapeutic activities.

What else would you like us to know about you? I learn every day about life experiences and you need a good mindset to get through life. I am available if you need any guidance in learning about this genetic disorder. I have had a challenge in life and would like to share my experiences about Bloom syndrome.

