

Charleen Recto was just 30 when she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma but fortunately, she's been in remission for 5 years.

A year ago her husband Jason was diagnosed with stage 4 Bladder Cancer, and she became his primary caregiver. Sadly, after battling the disease for eight months, he passed away at the young age of 35.



Charleen has already endured more life experiences than others twice her age. She not only had to confront her own mortality as a cancer survivor, but she learned firsthand about the unique challenges of serving as a loved one's primary caregiver. She was really struggling with her loss. Jason was the love of her life.



"I never really knew what love meant, until I took care of him. It was unconditional love. I feel grateful to have learned what it means to love someone that deeply."

-Charleen



“Jackie made me feel safe and not alone. She did a great job reflecting on my experiences with Jason and she articulated our journey beautifully through her work of art. Accessing and sharing those memories allowed me to heal. Twist Out Cancer saved my life.”

- Charleen

Then she heard about Brushes With Cancer, a 4-month program that provides psycho-social support to those touched by Cancer. Through a unique art experience, it helps improve the quality of life for Cancer survivors, their family and loved ones.

Twist Out Cancer can organize this program in local communities, thanks to the support of donors like you. Will you consider a special gift today to support people impacted by Cancer?

This year, Charleen applied and was matched with Jacqueline Carmody. Jacqueline is a Chicago-based art therapist and counselor, who has participated in Brushes With Cancer for the last three years.

At first Charleen was nervous about opening up and sharing her experiences. Within moments of meeting Jackie, she felt at ease and was willing to explore parts of her journey that she had never shared with anyone. She was able to learn and grow, while tapping into memories that were fresh, raw and at times extraordinarily painful.

Jackie always wanted to find a way to use her passions outside of the traditional artist setting. When she became involved with Brushes With Cancer three years ago, she found working

with cancer survivors, previvors and caregivers incredibly powerful and healing. The connection she made with Charleen was stronger than ever before.

“As an artist it is definitely intimidating because you don’t know what to expect. I wasn’t sure where Charleen was in her journey. I soon came to realize just how brave she is. To tell her story of being a caregiver... to be able to look at herself, and look back as a survivor... to look at her loss and still find the meaning of life. I am in awe of her bravery and strength.”

- Jackie

As you can see, art has the remarkable ability to tell the stories that one cannot fully explain. It offers healing and hope for those who allow their hearts to be impacted by it.

The power of the connections and relationships made through Brushes With Cancer is profound. You can help make this possible with your generous support.

Charleen and Jackie were then matched with Kobi Swissa, an Israeli born director, producer and composer, currently living in Chicago.

Kobi lost his dad when he was 17 and it had a profound impact on his childhood and his choices. At the time he felt helpless and crippled. When he saw the power of Twist Out Cancer at a workshop for kids, he was inspired to take action.

He wanted to help spread the message of facing fear with bravery, vulnerability and creativity. He was charged with creating his own twist on cancer by documenting the budding relationship between Charleen and Jackie.

To 'find his 'lens and his voice', and to show the unique approach of Brushes With Cancer, he spent weeks meeting with them to learn about their stories. Kobi was so moved by their friendship, that his film became a true labor of love with a score written and inspired by their journey.

“I wanted to tell Charleen so many things, but I was scared. I eventually realized that I wanted to give her my input. I wanted to give her advice that I thought could help her heal and grow. The song “Brush Stroke” is about how every single brush stroke, every obstacle, every hardship is just another brush stroke in her painting of life.”

-Kobi

Share. Connect. Heal.

Since we launched Brushes With Cancer four years ago, we have had over 3000 participants in Chicago, Ann Arbor and Toronto. With your help we will be able to expand to Philadelphia, Tel Aviv and beyond.

Your holiday gift today will make a difference. Cancer impacts everyone. Here is a powerful way to support Cancer patients, caregivers and those touched by this disease. Thank you for your support!

Gratefully yours,



Jenna Benn Shersher,
Founder and Executive Director of Twist Out Cancer

P.S. Your holiday gift will make a difference to individuals like Charleen, Jacqueline and Kobi and hundreds of others like them, impacted by Cancer. If you have already contributed to our Giving Tuesday campaign, we appreciate your support. Thank you!



twistoutcancer.org

702 N 3rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
847 767 3396

Yes! I want to support the important work of Twist Out Cancer with a gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$_____

I'd like to support Twist Out Cancer with an ongoing monthly gift through my credit card of:

\$10/month \$20/month \$50/month Other \$_____/month

Charge my payments to: Visa Mastercard American Express

Account Number _____

Expiration Date (mo/year) _____ CID # _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Primary Address _____

My employer has a matching gift program

Please make checks payable to Twist Out Cancer.
You can also donate online at twistoutcancer.org
Your monthly gift will be charged on the first day of the month or the next business day until you tell us to stop.



Contact us at
702 N 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123
847 767 3396