

Amber Jarrard – Dahlonaga, GA

When my sister-in-law first told me about the walk I hesitated to commit to join. I had myself convinced that all of the reasons, or excuses, I could come up with not to walk were valid. Then I started to think of all the reasons why I had to join. My biggest inspiration to walk is my mother. I lost my mother to lung cancer on June 14, 2007. She not only was my Mom but my best friend; she was one of the reasons I strive to be a better person. She was one of the most genuine and loving people I knew, and I want her goodness to survive through me. My mother was diagnosed with lung cancer in August 2005, and she fought as hard as she could for almost 2 years. Her strength, good spirit, and willingness to fight set an example for many.

My husband and I had only been married 1.5 years when my mother got sick and had not planned on having children for several more years, but my Mom's diagnosis changed everything. We decided to go ahead and try and start a family to make sure that my Mother would be here for the birth of her first grandchild. Jet was born in July '06 and my Mom was there every step of the way. Jet was 10 months old when she passed away, but I see her in him everyday. God has blessed us with a handsome, intelligent, and funny little boy and he is another reason I joined the walk. I want to be as healthy as I can be; so I can interact with him everyday. By making the commitment to walk I am also committing to becoming a healthier person. I am hoping that by helping other people it will be good therapy and a source of strength for me to battle through the loss of my mother.

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