

Ovarian Cancer Knows No Age Boundaries



Robin Babbini

was an active, high spirited teenager and honor student, engaged in numerous high school activities. Her dynamic life was turned upside down when at the age of 17 she began to have a series of disturbing, conflicting symptoms that defied diagnosis. She was so young that doctors never contemplated anything as serious as ovarian cancer. But as the gravity of the symptoms persisted, tests concluded that Robin had Stage 3 ovarian cancer. She had a total hysterectomy followed by chemo treatments. Amazingly, with unrivaled optimism, she completed her classes, graduated high school and began her freshman year at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Six months later, symptoms of the cancer reoccurred. Following another surgery, which revealed the cancer had metastasized to several other organs, Robin began an endless round of grueling, exhausting treatments. Undeterred, she continued her studies and pledged the national sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, where she quickly found new friendship and wondrous support. She even participated as co-captain at the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life at UCSB, where she spoke poignantly about the disease that was consuming her.

Six weeks later on June 29, 2006, Robin Babbini lost her battle with ovarian cancer. She was 20 years old.

THE OVARIAN CANCER CIRCLE

Inspired By Robin Babbini, The Ovarian Cancer Circle is a nonprofit based in Los Angeles, founded by Robin's mother, Paulinda Babbini to honor Robin's memory and help educate others about this most deadly disease. Last year ovarian cancer struck more than 22,000 women, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

"The primary reason I started The Circle is to heighten women's awareness to the varied signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer," says Paulinda. Signs to look for: 1. Abdominal pressure 2. Bloating 3. Nausea 4. Indigestion, 5. Feeling full, but eating less 6. Frequent urination 7. Constipation. Knowledge is critically important! Also, one of the biggest keys to the battle against ovarian cancer is finding a life-saving early detection test which doesn't yet exist. Remember, the pap smear does NOT detect ovarian cancer! The Circle is dedicated to raising funds for such medical research. More information can be found on the organization's website: www.theovariancancercircle.org

"I firmly believe that if our family had known the signs and symptoms, Robin might have had a chance."

Robin Babbini's illness stunned her physicians and traumatized her family. Nonetheless her courage and dignity has inspired all who were in her life. Her family and friends learned a lot from Robin. And now The Ovarian Cancer Circle is working hard to bring facts about this cancer to the forefront of young women's awareness. Remember: this insidious disease knows no age boundaries.

For all charitable donations please go to: www.ovariancancercircle.org. We thank you for your support in helping to find a cure for this insidious and deadly disease. (We will provide a receipt for all donations received via email). For information contact: Paulinda@theovariancancercircle.org or call 323.842.8100. Volunteers are always welcome! **EL**