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Broadview Heights cancer survivor now tackling parenthood

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By Scott Patsko, Sun News Follow

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BROADVIEW HEIGHTS: Life can go on after cancer.

Broadview Heights resident Anne Leeb knows this as well as anyone. After all, she gets to hug about 14 pounds of proof every day.

"A lot of people, when they get cancer, think their life is over," said Leeb, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2008. "But it's not over. I mean, I have a baby now. I never would have thought that was possible a few years ago."

Anne and Mel Leeb welcomed Grace into their lives three months ago, just in time for this year's National Cancer Survivors Day on June 3. Leeb's pregnancy didn't have complications, although she admits that, "no matter what kind of cancer you have, pregnancy takes a toll on the body."

But after what Leeb went through the last few years, it was probably a breeze.

A few weeks after her 2008 wedding, Leeb suffered a stroke. Then it got worse. Doctors found that she had ovarian cancer. Leeb may have felt the stroke saved her life by bringing the cancer to light, but she still had lots of fighting to do.

She went through five months of chemotherapy for the cancer, and more than a year of occupational and speech therapy due to the stroke.

It was a long road back, a road that included The Gathering Place, a cancer support center with facilities in Beachwood and Westlake. Leeb still takes advantage of the center today.

"It's good to hear other people share their stories," said Leeb. "And you share yours."



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When Broadview Heights resident Anne Leeb suffered a stroke in 2008, doctors realized she had ovarian cancer. But today Leeb is not only a cancer survivor, she's a new mother, too.

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An attorney before her stroke, Leeb has started her own practice out of her home. While it's been a challenge to build up a clientele, Leeb keeps in mind the words she often tells others with cancer.

"You don't know what the future holds," she said.

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