



Subscribe now



Customer Service

# MIDDLETOWN JOURNAL

- Home
- Local News
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Life
- Opinion
- Photos & Videos
- Help
- Jobs
- Cars
- Homes
- Classifieds & Deals
- Local Directory

- Life feed
- Local news e-mail
- Life mobile
- Twitter
- Facebook

site web

SEARCH

Web search by YAHOO!

- Classifieds
- Autos
- Real Estate
- Jobs

Home > Living

## Reality TV star finds true life passion

### Hot Topics

- ▶ Read Middletown local news on your mobile phone
- ▶ Are you paying too much for gasoline?
- ▶ Print FREE grocery coupons



HANDOUT

Diem Brown helped create MedGift.com, an online registry for patients.

ENLARGE PHOTO

### Latest lifestyle headlines

- ▶ Overfed, sedentary pets packing on the pounds 7:22 a.m.
- ▶ Pet not spayed or neutered can have serious health issues 7:23 a.m.
- ▶ Fun things to do in Southwest Ohio 5/19/12
- ▶ Grills at the right price; buy what's right for you 5/20/12
- ▶ These deals are too good to pass up 5/19/12
- ▶ > More lifestyle headlines

### More like this

- ▶ Franklin student to graduate despite life-threatening obstacles at birth May 19

### Suggested for you

- Madison falls to Alter for first loss (Middletown Journal)
- Bengals a squirrel looking for

By Daryn Kagan, Contributing Writer

7:29 PM Wednesday, May 9, 2012

E-mail this page

Print this page

Larger type

Diem Brown was a 22-year-old freelance entertainment reporter when MTV came calling five years ago. The network wanted to cast her on “Real World/Road Rules.”

Just before the show started shooting, Diem discovered that intense abdominal pain she’d been living with for months was cancer — ovarian cancer at age 22.

“They took out one ovary and part of the other and fallopian tubes,” she said.

Yet she decided to keep the fight for her life a secret. “I’m not telling MTV that I have ovarian cancer,” she decided. “No way they would let me on the show.” Maybe it was fear. Maybe it was being young and in denial.

The funny thing about what they call “reality” shows is that the truth, or some version of it, eventually comes out.

Weight loss, bad wig, low energy. People figured Diem was either a drug addict or something was terribly wrong.

“I had gotten down to 95 pounds,” she said. “I had no eyebrows and I had this cheap flapper wig that looked very plastic and fake.”

This wasn’t the person MTV thought it had cast.

And this certainly was not the life Diem thought she’d be living.

“All my healthy friends were getting married and having babies,” she said. “I was driving myself back and forth to chemo and hating my really cheap wig.”

But it was all of those bridal registries that helped Diem go from sad to inspired.

“I realized there was no registry for patients. Whether it be cancer, whether it be car accidents. There was no registry for patients.”

And so she decided to create one. That’s how MedGift.com was born.

“It’s a place where friends and family can celebrate someone fighting for their life,” Diem explained. “A place where you can find an online listing of a patient’s specific needs, wants

### Breaking news by e-mail

Start your day with top headlines in your inbox and get breaking news e-mail alerts at any time by subscribing to our Headlines e-mail newsletter.

See Sample | Privacy Policy

SIGN UP

### LIFESTYLE PHOTOS & VIDEOS



Bargain hunters shop at sale



Students report on wax museum



Carlisle Prom 2012



Carlisle Prom 2012

### Latest Entertainment Blog Posts

- ▶ Pizza shop owners to open second location near UD
- ▶ 'Dancing With the Stars' Costumes Recycled, Auctioned, and Purchased by Celebs
- ▶ Centerville retirement center opens restaurant to public
- ▶ Rose tasting at Arrow, and an intriguing 'Dayton Beer History Tour' highlight tastings list
- ▶ Lawyers to 'raise the bar' at Friday event

### About our ads

About our ads

McNutt in draft (Middletown Journal)  
 Franklin stays perfect with easy win against Edgewood (Middletown Journal)  
 Area High School Basketball Statistics (Middletown Journal)  
 Eagles sink Yellow Springs in overtime (Middletown Journal)

and wishes during treatment and recovery. You can even donate to help pay medical bills.”

Diem says in its first year alone, MedGift has helped more than 100,000 families.

Now cancer free, Diem is still doing TV, but now for entirely different reasons.

“The most exciting thing about life is impacting someone else. Making someone who is in their dark moment get out of it and find some sort of hope or solution.”

“It’s my passion and I love it.”

Share this article



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Life](#) | [Recreation](#) | [Photos & Video](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#) | [Find Middletown Jobs](#)  
[Advertising Media Kit](#) | [Online Ad Studio](#) | [Advertiser Tools](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [RSS](#) | [Our Partners](#) | [Site Map](#)

Copyright © Mon May 21 09:20:10 EDT 2012 Middletown Journal, Middletown, Ohio, USA. All rights reserved.

By using this site, you accept the terms of our [Visitors Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). [AdChoices](#) . You may wish to note our [other business policies](#).

