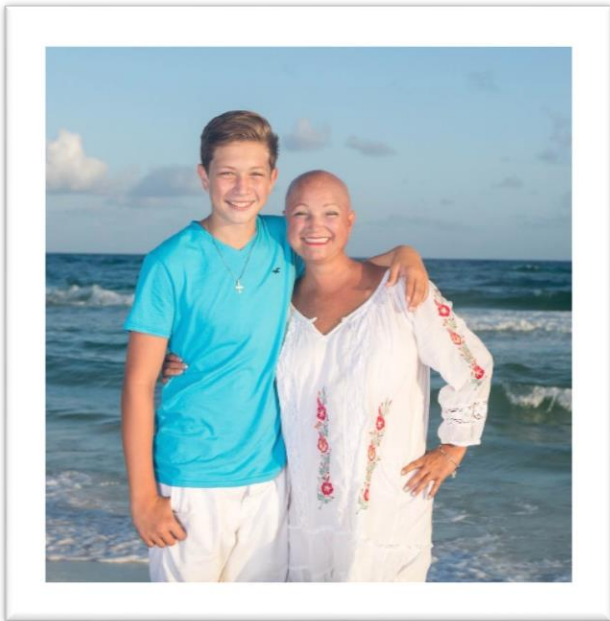




angel TREE MISSION



The Rose Family

Battling: 44-year-old, Kathy

Meet the Rose Family. Kathy Rose, age 44, her son Sean, 15, and her parents, Joe, 71, & Cindy, 64, have been working together to battle Kathy's breast cancer since July of 2010. Joe & Cindy never imagined that their retirement plan would mean selling their home and consolidating households with their daughter and grandson to help make ends meet and battle the dreaded "C" word. However, when life threw the Rose family a curve ball, they both sold their homes and

banned together and are continuing to fight as one.

On July, 15, 2010, Kathy Rose was diagnosed with breast cancer and within a week, she was told she was stage 4. The cancer had metastasized to her right breast, lymph nodes, spine, hips and shoulder blades. Statistically, she had just three years to live, but she and her family have been determined to beat it.

Kathy was just 38 years old when her battle began. She was a single parent and working at the Horseshoe Bay Resort as the Employment Manager while enrolled in graduate school at Texas Tech University. Because of the extreme physical and emotional stress, both her cancer treatment and highly demanding job produced, Kathy had to resign in January 2011.

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Both retired school teachers, Joe & Cindy help Kathy with everyday needs that include helping to make sure Kathy gets to all her MD Anderson Cancer Center appointments and helping to raise Sean. Cindy returned to the classroom after over 10 years of retirement and teaches part-time at one of their local, private schools. When possible, Kathy works on a contract basis and graduated with her Master's Degree in Family and Consumer

Science Education in August. Although the situation isn't ideal, Kathy can live as full of a life as possible due to the sacrifices of her parents. "They're the best thing that could have happened for Sean & me."

Kathy's "pride and joy", Sean, finds a way to make her proud of him every day. He is a great student, plays year-round baseball, and he is very strong for his mom. Kathy states, "Some people call me a fighter, but as I have watched him handle my cancer, I would say that he is the true fighter in the Rose family."

Kathy has made it 6 years, with no real prognosis except that she would be in treatment for the remainder of her days. Although she has been on 7 to 8 different chemotherapy regimens, the cancer continues to spread and she has developed one large and two smaller tumors on her liver that they are struggling to shrink. Her original doctors ran out of options for her, so she was sent to MD Anderson for treatment.

MD Anderson has been a blessing – sometimes a very tough one though. She is finally on a clinical trial that currently appears to be stopping the tumor growth. It has been at least 2 years since she has received positive news. The side-effects aren't fun, but Kathy says it is worth it. She prays that this drug buys her enough time until a cure is discovered. Until then, she will continue to travel to Houston 2-3 times a month with a smile on her face and gratitude in her heart.

*This year we join together to help this family
have a wonderful Christmas!*