Bright Light Foundation

Sherri Gaudet

2009 BLF Recipient

Sherri Harris Gaudet was born September 7, 1956, in Kilgore, TX. She married Damon Gaudet in Longview, TX, on April 19, 1981, where they resided with their two children, Trey and Tara. For the past 25 years, Damon has commuted to the Gulf for his work offshore for Anadarko. Sherri was caring for her elderly mother on January 21, 2009, when she collapsed, and her life was forever changed. She spent a week in the hospital in Longview, where she was misdiagnosed as having had a stroke. She was sent home to continue physical therapy and her daughter moved back from California to help the family care for her. Over the next several weeks her neurological function and physical condition rapidly deteriorated. She was experiencing weakness on her left side, vision loss in her left eye, severe headaches, vomiting, weight loss, trouble walking and talking, memory loss, confusion, and multiple seizures daily. After many visits to different emergency rooms and doctors, she was finally diagnosed two months later with a malignant brain tumor in her left temporal lobe.

By the grace of God, we were lead to Dr. Robert Grossman, head of Neurosurgery and Co-Founder of Methodist Hospital in Houston. He performed a craniotomy on March 16, 2009, and successfully removed 85 percent of the high-grade tumor. After spending over a week in Methodist Hospital, we took Sherri home to begin the long and hard recovery from brain surgery and continue her battle with cancer. She immediately began six weeks of intense radiation and chemotherapy. Her family continued caring for her as she suffered the mental and physical effects of surgery and treatment.

She is regaining her memory, speech, and ability to walk, though she continues to deal with the effects of radiation and ongoing chemotherapy. Due to seizures, she is not able to drive or be left alone for a period of time, and her battle for her health and independence is a daily one. Although surgery and treatment have been successful thus far, her condition remains acute, and Sherri is continuing her battle with cancer.

Despite what she has endured, Sherri has remained strong and continues to bring sunshine to the lives of everyone she knows and each new person she meets. She is a very beautiful and loving lady and is deeply cherished by her family and friends (including four dogs, two grand-dogs, and one cat).

We thank God for every day we have together and know that he will lead us through. We would like to thank the Bright Light Foundation for choosing our family as one of the recipients in 2009.

(Written by the family of Sherri Gaudet)