



# Bright Light Foundation

## **Curtis Stewart**

*2010 BLF Recipient*



Curtis Stewart was born in 1946 in Plaquemine, La. He married Beverly Guidry in 2003 and reside in Broussard, La. with five children – Corey Stewart, Kimalee Guidry, Curtis J. Stewart, Twana Jones and Tamara Reado.

In May 2008, Curtis's wife noticed his left calf was larger than the right. The next day, his journey began with appointments to his Internal Medicine and Orthopedic Physicians. An ultrasound and MRI determined that a "mass" was present. After being referred to Oschners Hospital in New Orleans, Curtis underwent a biopsy of the calf and X-ray of the chest and abdomen. The mass was a Malignant Myxoid Liposarcoma, a rare, soft-tissue, cancerous tumor that appears in fatty tissue. In addition to the tumor, small nodules were also found on the lungs.

Curtis then went to The Cancer Treatment Center in Tulsa, OK, for a second opinion on the nodules. After further testing, the team of physicians determined they were too small to pursue treatment. He was referred to MD Anderson in Houston, which has a Sarcoma Clinic dedicated to treatment and ongoing studies pertaining to this rare form of tumor.

Curtis met with a team of physicians at MD Anderson, who recommended a treatment plan of chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. He underwent six cycles of chemo and 25 radiation treatments. He underwent resection followed by a nine-and-a-half-hour immediate reconstruction and skin graft in April 2009. Just a week later, he developed a small bowel obstruction which required surgical incision into the abdominal wall. He was discharged later that month, and after a year of living in Houston for his treatments, etc, they returned home to Broussard. He continued with therapy until August 2009.

Curtis and Bev travel to Houston every three months for follow-up testing at MD Anderson and must do so for the next 4 ½ years. At the last visit, no evidence of the disease was found where the mass was removed from his calf. The doctors believe the nodules Curtis' lungs are still too small to require any intervention, but they will be closely monitored.

Prior to the diagnosis, treatment and surgery, Curtis was employed with Columbia Gulf Transmission as a mechanical engineer. Following the surgery, he returned to work but was laid off shortly thereafter, due to a mandatory reduction in the workforce.

Despite what Curtis has endured the last couple of years, he continues to have a positive outlook on life and his faith is strong. We thank God each day for the support of family, friends, doctors and everyone who continue the journey with us. A special thank you goes out to the Bright Light Foundation for choosing our family as one of the recipients in 2010.