

FIND YOUR MBC VOICE

Felicia's Story **Felicia Johnson, living with metastatic breast cancer since 2003**

FELICIA:

When I was a little girl my dad taught me that life was like a wonderful train ride and he explained that we each get a ticket.

And that sounded beautiful.

So I grew up and boarded my train. The conductor punched my ticket and I was off.

I worked hard. I had a son. We were a family, had different activities that we did together.

Then one day, at the age of 42, the train came to a halt.

And the conductor tapped me on the shoulder.

The conductor slowly said to me, "You have de novo metastatic breast cancer. You must get off this train now."

At 42, I was standing on the platform alone.

I heard the train pull in from the distance.

"All aboard the metastatic breast cancer train."

I get on the train, I hear the bell ring and the door closes.

The conductor started yelling out the stops ... anxiety, fear, worry, depression, uncertainty.

Did I do something wrong?

A medical oncologist verified my metastatic diagnosis.

He said, "Felicia we've got to get ahead of the train."

One day on the train, Mr. De Novo yells out a stop, "Metastatic Beach."

I walked down the boardwalk to get to the sand.

It's wet, it's comfortable, it's cool on my feet.

I'm walking across the beach. I can't wait to get to the wave.

FIND YOUR MBC VOICE

I quicken my pace and I feel the breeze engulfing me. There's peace, there's rest.

Sometimes with metastatic breast cancer, you get to a place you can briefly, just briefly, rest.

Cancer has some control of my life, but not all.

I have a say. I have a voice.

I know I'm alive. I can speak for myself and I can use my voice.

And when I need to get back on the train, I'll back get on.

I will always be on this metastatic train until I get to the station of hope.

FELICIA VO:

My name is Felicia Johnson.

I did not let mBC silence me. I found my voice. Start the conversation.