



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Mitzi Knull

At the age of three, Mitzi Knull was completely paralyzed with polio; a crippling disease running rampant in the forties and early fifties before a vaccine was discovered. She spent nine months in a rehabilitation center seeing her parents only once a week.

Today, Mitzi (58) is human resources manager for CRSI working in the Urbana corporate office. She has been with the agency for over nine years. She is also in the mist of battling a new enemy – breast cancer.

Mitzi and her husband Phil have a few things in common other than 37 years of marriage, two grown children (son Brad and wife Cindy; daughter Mindy and husband Derek) and two grandchildren (Violet and Carson). As coincidence has it, Phil was also stricken with polio as a child. In addition, he is a cancer survivor, having beaten colon cancer thirteen years ago by undergoing surgery and thirty weeks of chemotherapy.

In October of this year, Mitzi followed up on her yearly ritual with a visit to her doctor for a breast exam and Mammography X-ray. She has been faithful in obtaining these exams even though fifteen years of fiber cystic breast tissue has shown no change from year to year. The Mammogram was negative.

Her doctor, however, had just heard about a new specialty that was being introduced free of charge in Gahanna, Ohio. A company called ProScan was initializing a new MRI exam specifically for breasts. With nothing to lose, her doctor decided to send Mitzi over for the exam even though he suspected no problems. Mitzi was their first patient.

The MRI showed what the mammogram did not...a small nodule about a centimeter in diameter. The doctor at first felt leery of the finding and thought this to be a false positive outcome but ordered an Ultra Sound for further assurance. The Ultra Sound also proved positive showing a problem area that would not have registered on a Mammogram for another year or two. A biopsy was taken and tests confirmed...it was cancer.

On November 4, Mitzi underwent surgery to have the lump removed along with nineteen lymph nodes...four or five showing cancer cells. Post-surgery X-Rays have come back clear since the lumpectomy, but Mitzi must still undergo chemotherapy “to find any cancer cells still drifting around”,

says Mitzi, “and radiation to prevent recurrence. I felt it was in God’s hands... everything from the doctor’s visit to the biopsy,” she says citing her strong faith in God.

On December 1, the day before Mitzi begins therapy, her female co-workers at CRSI’s corporate office held a “surprise” hat party. She was treated with lunch and showered with loving gifts of hats and scarves to wear after she loses her hair to chemo as well as comfy pajamas, slippers, and personal items to make her days at home more comfortable. “It is so uplifting to me to know how much support my co-workers offer me,” she says. “This is the philosophy of the agency, to care about people, to bring comfort to the people we serve and I am overwhelmed and grateful for the thoughts and prayers from the people I work with.”

Mitzi’s faith is strong as she adds, “I have a lot of confidence and hope and I’ve always said that God has a certain amount of days ordained for us and I’m going to live that number of days!”

Polio survivor/cancer survivor...her strength and courageous spirit is palpable.

