Latina Breast Cancer Survivors Share “Then and Now” Stories, Photos, and Videos after 10+ Years of Survival

SAN ANTONIO (Oct. 6, 2014) – Julie La Fuente Louviere of San Antonio has fought—and survived—three bouts of breast cancer.

She doesn’t let cancer keep her down.

The wife and mother of two has lost weight, ran a half-marathon, celebrated 25 years of marriage, turned 50, become a grandmother, and watched her oldest graduate from law school.

“Survivorship means I am able to wake up every morning and be a wife to my husband, a mom to my girls, now a glam’ma to my grandson and loving aunt and sister,” Louviere said. “It means I can be an active part of the present and never take life’s moments for granted.”

Louviere is among the 16 local Latina survivors who are celebrating their stories of hope, triumph, and resiliency on the 10th anniversary of Nuestras Historias: Mujeres Hispanas Sobreviviendo el Cáncer del Seno (Our Stories: Hispanic Women Surviving Breast Cancer).

Nuestras Historias, a 2004 booklet with English/Spanish essays by Louviere and other Latina cancer survivors, was produced by Redes En Acción, a national Latino cancer research network funded by the National Cancer Institute and based at Dr. Amelie Ramirez’ Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

2014 is the 10th anniversary of Nuestras Historias.

To celebrate this anniversary and Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, check out brand-new “then and now” photos, stories, and videos of the survivors.

The survivors and their families also were recognized at a reunion and ceremony on Oct. 7, 2014, at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center (CTRC) in San Antonio.

“We really want to share these Latinas’ incredible stories that breast cancer isn’t a death sentence; surviving is possible with awareness, screening, and early detection,” Ramirez said.
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, one of the country’s leading health sciences universities, ranks in the top 3 percent of all institutions worldwide receiving federal funding. Research and other sponsored program activity totaled $228 million in fiscal year 2010. The university’s schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry, health professions and graduate biomedical sciences have produced approximately 26,000 graduates. The $744 million operating budget supports eight campuses in San Antonio, Laredo, Harlingen and Edinburg. For more information on the many ways “We make lives better®,” visit www.uthscsa.edu.

The Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio investigates the causes and solutions to the unequal impact of cancer and chronic disease among certain populations, including Latinos, in San Antonio, South Texas and the nation. The IHPR, founded in 2006, uses evidence-guided research, training and community outreach to improve the health of those at a disadvantage due to race/ethnicity or social determinants, such as education or income. Visit the IHPR online at http://ihpr.uthscsa.edu or follow its blog at http://www.saludtoday.com/blog.