

What Beta Sigma Phi Means to Me

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My name is Carol Martin Desaulniers and I am a member of **Ontario Xi Beta Zeta, Belleview**. My sorority sisters all supported me in a walk for ovarian cancer done to support my sorority sister Cathie Gartner from my past chapter, Ontario Epsilon Beta, Kitchener.

I was introduced to sorority by a girlfriend I met when I moved to Kitchener from Kingston Ontario 13 years ago. It was the first day of a new school year and Cathie Gartner and I met at the park while walking our dogs, both moms worried how our kids would like their first day at new schools. I had moved there at the end of June and Cathie from Peterborough in May. We joined the Kitchener/Waterloo Newcomers Club together and she later introduced me to her sorority chapter. I still enjoy her friendship and have had visits with her and others from that chapter after moving to yet another new home here in Frankford. True friends are always in your heart and the distance to a friends home is never too long.

In July Cathie went into the hospital for surgery to have her appendix removed. Unfortunately they found



three tumors and stage III ovarian cancer was diagnosed shortly thereafter.

Cathie works at a public elementary school and is hardworking and well-loved for her upbeat personality. Friends, family and co-workers were shocked and saddened to hear her health news, but rallied to her support arranging food, visits and household help. In September we organized a mini-walk of Hope for Ovarian Cancer held in Kitchener in Cathie's name. She was surprised and amazed by the turnout and support of so many friends and family. The Kitchener Walk raised a total of \$10,283.98!