



Hello, my name is Jordan Siemens and I am a three time cancer survivor. The Cancer Support Community Montana (CSCMT) has been a very important resource for me and my family as we navigated my diagnoses. **My journey began 13 years ago when I was first diagnosed with Testicular Seminoma.** We had caught it early, and after surgery my doctors were optimistic that this short-lived cancer scare was behind me. My wife Cari and I had a good talk on how fragile life can be and that we weren't living life to the fullest, so we sold most of our belongings and traveled the world for a year, eventually settling in Bozeman.

Fast forward 5 years, life couldn't have been better, we had bought our first house, had our son Calder, and I was scheduled for my last set of blood work. I figured this was it, the day when I'm finally done with scans, blood work, doctor visits and the constant stress that goes along with a cancer diagnosis. **My doctor called a few days later and told us my cancer was back.**

All the fears and stress instantly rushed back. Cari came to me the very next day and said we needed to talk, **she looked me in the eyes and said, "I'm pregnant."** I can't even begin to describe the emotions that took over. My first thoughts were quite negative, but **I used this exciting news to change my outlook and focus on beating cancer and having a bright future ahead.**

We both temporarily quit our jobs as I began treatment. As I laid around sick for months, my wife took care of our son, cooked dinners, did the laundry, drove me to my appointments, managed the house, fought with insurance and on top of it all was pregnant and trying to take care of her own body. I honestly don't know how she did it.

After an intense treatment plan, and months of recovery, life was once again back on a high. We had welcomed our daughter and named her Zoe, meaning Life. Despite having complications at birth, she is doing wonderful and is such a bright light in our lives. **Four more years passed, I was healthy and approaching some significant milestones in my remission. I really believed I had beat cancer for good this time.** As I went in for one of my final rounds of blood work, the results would once again be a shock and send our world crumbling apart.

My cancer was back for a 3rd time and my doctors suggested I look for help outside of Montana. After countless hours of research, the decision was made that I would undergo treatment at IU health in Indiana under the incredible care of Doctor Einhorn.

It was around this time when my family was introduced to the Cancer Support Community Montana. **Having been through this twice on our own, we knew we needed a community to get through this and CSCMT welcomed us with open arms.** We filled them in on what our family was going through, and they instantly wanted to help.

Leaving for Indiana was incredibly hard. Cari and I packed the car, said a tearful goodbye to our two young kids, and began the drive. At the hospital, my port was installed, and I spent six hours hooked to a machine before being moved to my room—where I'd stay for two months, unable to go outside. **Two rounds of high-dose chemo left me barely able to function.** It was grueling, but I know it was even harder for my family, who could only watch me suffer.

When my kids finally showed up after my first round of treatment I had lost nearly 20lbs, my head was bald, I was pale white and could hardly move out of bed. I was so happy to see them. It reminded me why this fight was so important and I was determined to never give up. **I finished the final round of treatment, rang the bell, and hugged all the wonderful team who spent two months caring for me.** I had lost 35 lbs, and could hardly walk but I had never been so ready to get back to Montana.

The support I have received has been overwhelming. **CSCMT not only helped support our travels to and from Indiana, but when we returned to Bozeman, we realized all other wonderful things they offered.** We attended BBQ's where we met other families going through their own battles. The kids began meeting other kids and eventually it was like showing up at a friend's house. My son Calder and I attended fly tying classes. He would come home with a box full of fuzzy, colorful and possibly first edition, never before seen flies. Cari and I attended yoga classes where we could **escape a stressful day and unwind in a comfortable space where no one judged your bald head and weak body.** I spent many hours speaking with their counselors, helping me clear my head of the negative thoughts and fears of what I had been through and refocusing my attention on a bright and full future.

One of the highlights was attending Camp-Make-A-Dream, a multi-day retreat for families like ours. We pushed each other to try the zip line, climbed the rock wall, and shared laughter, tears, and lasting connections. **CSCMT gave us not only practical support but also a sense of belonging and renewal that continues to shape our lives today.**

All of these things wouldn't be possible without the volunteers and generous donations from people like you. When my family was in a time of need, CSCMT was there to help. I pray that my story with cancer is over, but for someone else, it's only just beginning, and they will need the same support and care to get through their journey. **Your generosity has directly helped my family, and it continues to make a difference for so many others.** Because of donations like yours, the Cancer Support Community Montana can keep offering its free programs and services to those who need them most. **Cancer can feel incredibly isolating, but thanks to CSCMT, no one has to face it alone.** Thank you.



**JORDAN'S STORY HELPS US UNDERSTAND
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.**



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