

DETERMINED

like mom

Mother's Day Campaign 2020

My name is **Blanca Lee**.

In October of 2018 at the age of 30, I was diagnosed with Stage 2 Triple Negative Breast Cancer. This is a very aggressive form of breast cancer with no effective targeted therapies.

At the time, I was a newlywed just beginning a life with my new husband, we had not even celebrated our second wedding anniversary. As a couple, we had so many plans and dreams for our life, **including starting a family**. Once I was diagnosed, my focus became fighting for my life.

The one fear that kept running through my mind was, ***"Is breast cancer going to rob me of my chance to become a mother?"*** Because of the aggressiveness of my tumor, my doctor recommended that I start chemotherapy within 2 weeks of my diagnosis. Since infertility is a potential side effect of chemo, my doctor recommended that we freeze my eggs before starting treatment. I had roughly 48 hours from the time of my diagnosis to make that decision and I'm glad we decided to move forward with freezing our embryos. Knowing that my hope of becoming a mother was still alive really helped get me through my fight against breast cancer.

After 16 rounds of chemotherapy and 17 radiation treatments, **I am now cancer free**. October will be my two year "cancerversary" or diagnosis anniversary. The first two years after diagnosis are critical for Triple Negative Breast Cancer survivors and because of that, my husband and I have decided to wait until I hit that mark before we try to start our family. I am both **excited and nervous** for this adventure and hope that one day, I can celebrate Mother's Day with more than just my fur babies!