

The hard part is my son, in the beginning it was very difficult for him to understand and accept my illness, he thought maybe because of my marriage and having problems with my husband . . . , that he might have injured me in some way and that's how I had gotten it. But I had him you know feel the wound and so forth and explain to him there's so many ways of getting breast cancer, and there's no one answer.



Martha Red Willow
[Oglala Sioux]



I called my husband and I told him and there was this dead silence at the other end. . . . I was going to have my surgery at Minot and my family had a fit and they said go to Bismarck you know, and so that's how I met you. [Dr. Judith Kaur] I think my niece contacted [you].

Georgianna D. [Fort Bend]

They were strong, they understood, and we have the meeting I told [Mary P. Lovato] that I was going to tell my parents, my brothers and my sisters too. I didn't want to accept it so they kept on talking to me so we prayed and . . . I know my baby brother, he's the one that got really hurt and my son. They all say, "why you? Since you got home, you got sick, why?" So my daddy told me, be careful, what you do, each step you take, be strong in body and soul. We got our own beliefs so that's what I do everyday, I take one at a time . . . they understand, they don't want me to do a lot of work, they want to do the work and they want to suffer the pains that I've suffer. And I tell them, I say, you can't do that, I got will power. I . . . Especially my son, "Mamma are you all-right, mamma are you all-right" that's what he always tell me. He come up there sometimes every weekend and see me.



Mary Lou Calabaza
[Santo Domingo Pueblo]