

## **Ovarian Cancer survivor spreads awareness, encouragement**

OSF HealthCare Newsroom

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### **BROADCAST SCRIPT**

#### **INTRO:**

A CANCER DIAGNOSIS CAN BE ONE OF THE TOUGHEST THINGS TO HEAR. THAT WAS THE REALITY FOR SAVANNA CHRISTENSEN – WHO AT THE TIME WAS ONLY 22 YEARS OLD.

#### **TAKE VO**

SAVANNA HAD BEEN FEELING BLOATED... HAD PAIN IN HER RIGHT SIDE... AND WAS LOSING HER APPETITE WHEN SHE DECIDED TO GET SEEN BY A DOCTOR. IN JULY OF 2020– SHE HAD SURGERY AT OSF SAINT FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER WHERE SHE HAD HER RIGHT OVARY REMOVED.

LIFE WENT ON FOR SAVANNA – SHE GOT ENGAGED... STARTED WORKING AT THE BLOOMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT... AND WAS READY TO START PLANNING A FAMILY WHILE CONTINUING TO GET HER L-D-H LEVELS CHECKED EVERY 3 MONTHS... TO MAKE SURE THE CANCER DIDN'T RETURN. AFTER ALMOST A YEAR AND A HALF – SHE RECEIVED THE DEVASTATING NEWS AGAIN THAT HER CANCER WAS BACK.

WITH A SURGERY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 2022 – CHRISTENSEN'S ONCOLOGIST DISCUSSED AN ALTERNATIVE TO SURGERY: CHEMOTHERAPY.

SHE CHOSE TO GO THE CHEMO ROUTE – AND AROUND THREE MONTHS LATER – THE TUMOR WAS NO LONGER SEEN – AND HER L-D-H LEVELS WERE IN THE NORMAL RANGE.

SAVANNA'S GYNECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGIST – DR. MICHELLE ROWLAND – SAYS IT WAS INSPIRING TO BE SAVANNA'S DOCTOR.

#### **TAKE SOT**

"It's very rewarding to have worked with somebody through a cancer diagnosis and treatment, which was not an easy treatment for her. But to really see her get back to her life,"

#### **VO TAG BRIDGE**

DR. ROWLAND SAYS THE UNFORTUNATE TRUTH ABOUT OVARIAN CANCER – AS SAVANNA FOUND – IS THAT IT CAN BE REOCCURRING.

FAST FORWARD TO TODAY – SAVANNA IS MARRIED TO THE LOVE OF HER LIFE – SHAWN. SHE NOW IS PASSIONATE ABOUT SPREADING OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS – WHICH HAS ITS OWN AWARENESS MONTH IN SEPTEMBER.

## TAKE SOT

“This is the hardest fight you might ever take on. You are literally fighting for your life, and you deserve to be celebrated. You are a warrior, you’re a fighter!” Christensen says. “Just make sure you take it easy on yourself. Take all the steps you need to, whether fast or slow, but just remember to give yourself some credit because this is hard. It’s physically and mentally draining.”

## VO TAG

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SAYS JUST OVER 19-THOUSAND 7-HUNDRED WOMEN WILL RECEIVE A NEW DIAGNOSIS OF OVARIAN CANCER IN 2023. OVARIAN CANCER RANKS FIFTH IN CANCER DEATHS AMONG WOMEN... BUT IT IS RELATIVELY RARE. THE A-C-S REPORTS ABOUT 1 IN 78 WOMEN GET OVARIAN CANCER IN THEIR LIFETIME.

IN PEORIA – OSF SAINT FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER TREATS MORE THAN 2-THOUSAND NEWLY DIAGNOSED CANCER PATIENTS EACH YEAR.

IN JANUARY 2024 – THE OSF HEALTHCARE CANCER INSITUTE IS EXPECTED TO OPEN... OFFERING WORLD-CLASS CANCER CARE TO PATIENTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.