

16 through April 20, 2009. As Nedra's birthday is April 6th and mine is April 20th, I thought it would a great way to celebrate our birthdays together. I immediately called Ned and told her I was sending the article to her to look over and see what she thought of my idea. We both knew if we didn't commit right then, we would let something else interfere with our plan. So, we sent in our deposit. We were now on our way and nothing was going to stop us. When April finally arrived, we packed our bags and took an extra day so we could start our trip in relaxed mode. Our trip took us from Miami to Key West and Cozumel. We spent our time, relaxing, sightseeing, shopping, laughing, partaking in seminars offered through the magazine, meeting other survivors, and making new friends. What an awesome way to celebrate another year of life, building one more block of our quilt!

Nedra: Recently I received a letter stating that my mammogram had a suspicious area and could I please call to make an appointment for further testing. Many of you know how I felt. A ton of bricks had just fallen on me. This was not the first time but it never gets easier, at least not for me. Mary Kay was away on a mini vacation with her husband which I hated to interrupt, but I called anyway and left a message on her cell phone. Little did I know at the same time, my husband was also leaving her a message to call me right away. I needed her, and again she was there for me. Thank God again for cell phones. Thankfully the biopsy came back cancer free.

Mary Kay: Just weeks after Nedra's scare, I had further testing done which was requested by my oncologist after a routine visit. The results of two of the tests came back rather quickly, but it seemed like years waiting on the last results. The anxiety of waiting on scan results never does get any easier. While Nedra was away at a conference, she was as anxious as I to hear the results and continued to send me text messages checking for any news. This went on for days. Another crisis! I finally got the call telling me, "Doctor wanted me to let you know there was a spot found on your liver in the PET scan and he's ordering an MRI to determine. . ." After the shock began to dissipate, I just wanted to talk to Ned. I knew my loved ones would be there for me, but I just had a need to talk to Ned first. It's like I was struck by lightning and I knew she would feel the fear that was suddenly reeling inside me.



Mary Kay and Nedra enjoy working and playing together. Nedra has a special sewing and quilting room in her new home that is filled with bright light and special tables.

I called to tell her how scared I was and her response was, "I'm scared too. I'll be there in 35 minutes." Little did I know that she left a family gathering at the drop of a hat to comfort me, once again. We just held each other and cried together. How wonderful it is to have a 'sister' soul mate that not only laughs with you, but also feels your pain and can cry with you too. It's probably somewhat difficult for others to understand such a bonding,

but oh what a blessing it is! And fortunately, our meltdowns usually don't occur at the same time. After further tests and a second opinion, my results were also good. Ned called me the morning just minutes before my last test just to let me know she was with me all the way. How grateful and relieved we both were to get the good news.

We will continue to build more blocks, and the piecing will continue to go on. ■



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