

## **August Spree**

Age: 49

Mother of three

Cancer Survivor, diagnosed while pregnant, 2003

Former Caregiver, grandmother diagnosed in 2007

Event Planner/Producer (own business)

Director of Programs, Twist Out Cancer



### **Bio:**

I was diagnosed at 27 years old with a rare, but aggressive, form of fatty tissue cancer. I was 8 months pregnant with my second son (pictured). Shortly afterward, my grandmother, who was like a mother to me, was diagnosed with cancer as well. I spent almost a year taking care of her through her treatment. Because of my experience with cancer, and the experience of losing my grandmother, I became passionate about giving back to the cancer community in many ways.

I discovered Twist Out Cancer by accident in 2014 when I happened upon the Brushes with Cancer Chicago gala. The use of art and relationship as a way to aid healing touched me deeply and I knew I needed to be involved. I began volunteering, then I participated as an Inspiration and was matched with an artist. The experience was more rewarding than I imagined. Soon afterwards, I was invited to join the Board and then eventually became the Director of Programs. I have been extremely blessed to facilitate matching other people in our programs, and to bring the program to Detroit and other cities, as well as being instrumental in expanding our program partnerships with places like General Motors and Wayne State University in Detroit, Adrienne Arsht Performing Arts Center in Miami, and more.