

## Paula Siegel's WEBC Journey

Paula Siegel with her daughter Jayden and her husband Geoff

Paula Siegel is a 32-year-old mother of two living in Toronto. On November 20th, 2002 she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. This diagnosis came just two months after the birth of her second child. Since that day she has undergone several surgeries, 6 months of chemotherapy and lots of emotional ups and downs.

It was during one of her treatments at Princess Margaret Hospital that she first heard about The Weekend to End Breast Cancer. She was still in the early stages of treatment but the thought of raising money and setting a goal to walk the 60km route was something positive that she could focus on. She fundraised like crazy, talked up the event and tried to stay in the best shape she could despite her treatments. She wanted to walk and show that she could come out on top.

Paula made it through those terrible treatments, the loss of her hair and the lack of strength. She and her husband raised over \$36,000 and their team, Paula's Possee raised over \$125,000. Every night she would log onto their home computer and check out their progress. It makes her proud to this day to know that the money will be used by Princess Margaret Hospital to enhance the clinical experience for thousands of women like her and help find a cure for breast cancer. To be a part of something that was so big, an event where thousands of people raised millions is something she can't walk away from this year.

As exciting as all this was, nothing could compare to the actual walk. Paula met so many people who inspired her with their determination, their dedication and their

selflessness. She walked with all of her closest friends and met many new friends. She saw parts of Toronto she had never seen before and felt so proud when she crossed the finish line. She had achieved the goal that she set for herself on that miserable, cold winter afternoon sitting in Princess Margaret Hospital's chemotherapy day unit.

This year over 20,000 women and even some men (1% of new cases) will be diagnosed with this terrible disease. They all need our support. Paula is committed more than ever to make whatever impact she can in the fight against breast cancer. So, she is doing the walk all over again and so are many of her Paula's Possee teammates.

This is a new year for Paula and her family, one filled with renewed hope and renewed determination. Paula's Possee is back and she looks forward to the months ahead, training for what will surely be a weekend that could change the world.