

LIVE, LOVE, LEARN ... EVERY DAY

"I'm doing what I think I was put on this earth to do. And I'm really grateful to have something that I'm passionate about and that I think is profoundly important."

– Marian Wright Edelman

Minnie Hines-Chen was diagnosed with breast cancer just a few weeks before she was accepted into nursing school. She was only 20 years old and women her age "don't get breast cancer."

Minnie chose a tough chemo regimen so she could get back on track with schooling as soon as possible. "My path was halted," she says, "but not broken."

She knew she had the drive to make something of herself in the field of nursing, but now Minnie knows she has a *calling*. She is dedicated to becoming an oncology nurse so she can give back through compassionate service.

Minnie's email signature contains four simple sentences that describe exactly how she conducts her life these days—"Live some. Love some. Learn some. Every day."

Just a cyst

As far back as she can remember, Minnie wanted to be a nurse. "I'm a people-person and I like to help others," she says. She took on dual-credit classes in college, working hard to complete the prerequisites and get accepted into nursing school.

In 2004, during her first year of college, Minnie found a lump while taking a shower. The pediatrics doctor at the military base took less than 20 minutes with her. Minnie had always been athletic and there was no history of cancer on either side of her family. Besides, she was too young to have cancer. The doctor said it was probably just a cyst and sent her home.

Nearing the completion of her second year of college, Minnie noticed that the lump had grown larger. She mentioned it to her mom and they made a trip back to the clinic. It wasn't until the third visit that the doctor ordered a biopsy and ultrasound.