

TAMIKA AND FRIENDS

*“Anyone can give up, it’s the easiest thing in the world to do.
But to hold it together when everyone else would understand
if you fell apart, that’s true strength.”*

- Unknown

Tamika Felder, at age 25, was on an upward swing as a television reporter and producer when she was hit with a triple whammy. Diagnosed with cervical cancer, she had to deal with the stigma of a disease linked to an STD. She underwent a radical hysterectomy, which left her sterile and, to add insult to injury, Tamika had to face a protocol of chemotherapy and radiation. With her career on hold and finances drastically affected, Tamika gave up on life.

In time, the *old* Tamika began to re-emerge. Inspired at a weekend retreat in the Sonoran Desert, she came home and established an organization – Tamika and Friends, Inc – that educates on cervical cancer and provides support and aid to women dealing with the disease.

A rare Southern woman who isn’t ashamed to tell her age—33 at the time of this writing!—Tamika credits that to her cancer experience. “I’m thankful to be here ... every year, every day, every moment.”

Newsy, not nose

Today, Tamika is once again doing television reporting and producing in Washington, D.C. It’s what she’s wanted to do ever since she can remember. “My father gave me my first video camera as a child,” says Tamika with a laugh. “I went around interviewing everyone and driving them all crazy!”

Tamika loves to hear other people’s stories—“I’m newsy, not nose. Everybody on this planet has a story and we all add to the great book of life.”

One of the unfortunate chapters in Tamika’s story is that her father died from colon cancer the day before her seventeenth birthday. “He was my best friend. We were as close as a father and daughter could be.” Tamika says her father suffered greatly for the ...