



## Amazing Mom Contest Winners



### Joanne

Joanne has four children. After having their first child, they wanted one more child – they were pregnant with twins. They lost them both and had multiple miscarriages. Determined to have one more child, it eventually happened “ALL NATURALLY.” This was a big deal at Baystate, as not many multiples were natural. Well Joanne was pregnant with twins again – that’s what she thought until a few months into her pregnancy. They found another baby – triplets. I will never forget the day they called me crying, happy, but very nervous. They were all born healthy; however, weighing 1 lb, 2 lbs, and 3 lbs. It was a long road for them. They stayed in the NICU for almost two months. Back and forth to the hospital, praying they would be okay and develops fine. That they did! Once sent home – all on different meds. She had a large chart on her counter with all the different meds each child had to take. It was a full time job. Never mind bottles. To wash two hundred bottles was nothing. Feeding two babies is easy, adding that thirds meant one more parent up for a while longer. I could go on and on about this as if that wasn’t enough. However, I want to tell you about this last year.

After a mammogram in October of 2007, she was diagnosed with breast cancer – a 44 year old woman (my twin, most important), mother of triplets, then five years old, and a daughter twelve years old. If that was not enough, our mother was diagnosed one week later with the same thing, breast cancer. The long road began. Endless trips back and fort to Dana Farber. Scared each day, Joanne kept us strong, so did our mother. We often wonder why things happened that way. Joanne helped my mom and my mom helped my sister. She was strong every step of the way, from shaving her hair off to going for chemo each time. You would never know what my sister was going through. She was always upbeat, maintained her house and children from the beginning, made dinners, drove her children where they had to go, and also kept my mother focused too! They fed off each other. Joanne always thought about everyone else. She went through the surgery first so she could tell my mom how easy it was – can you imagine a bilateral mastectomy being easy? She also kept me strong and focused. I could go on and on about my sister. She is not just my sister, she is MY WORLD. Someone whom I cherish and love and pray for each day. That is only a few reasons why I think Joanne is an amazing mom.