

Renee' Di Giulio, A Woman Of Passion And Compassion



Renee' Di Giulio, a woman of passion and compassion, has an interesting story that reaches far beyond her home in Barrington, Illinois, as she touches the lives of the people who cross her path.

Ms. Di Giulio has been a travel agent for over 20 years and Renee's career led her to her fiancé, Ian Naismith, whose grandfather created the game of basketball...sounds crazy, but it's true!

The game of basketball was actually invented by Dr. James Naismith in 1891. With Renee's background in the Caribbean travel industry and her direct tie to the game of basketball she linked the Naismith International Basketball Foundation (NIBF) and the Caribbean Kids Coalition. Renee' is President of the Foundation and in charge of all the charities. Our mission is to help as many children in the United States and the Caribbean as we can.

We donate items needed by families, seniors, children and even battered women homes. We help those in need which includes helping cancer patients as well as sponsor a life skill's youth camp in St. Kitts (in the Caribbean) for 200 youth. Renee', known as the "Mother Theresa of the Caribbean," has also helped children obtain special surgeries and schooling they could not have had without the help of the Foundation. NIBF seeks to develop and implement programs for such youth to increase and improve their participation in education and to develop skills that enhance their ability to shun negative influences in their lives and reduce their participation in drugs, alcohol, gangs and crime. The activities of NIBF provide opportunities for youth to learn respect of self and others, positive role modeling and dignity.



In May of 2004, Renee' was in Jamaica, escorting a wedding group along with hosting a children's day in Negril, when she noticed that her left breast was abnormal. This alarmed both Renee' and Ian, but they did not want to let anyone down so she pulled through for the remainder of the week. Upon returning to Chicago she was almost immediately diagnosed with the worst and fastest-growing form of breast cancer. Renee's shocked reaction would be expected, but it was not because of the cancer. "Renee' started crying when the diagnosis, treatment and surgery schedule was given to her, not because of the diagnosis but because she realized she would have to miss going to camp that year," explains Ian.

From May of 2004, to October of 2006, she had a heavy course of treatments including chemo, radiation and eventually 3 surgeries. Renee' was given a

new, very effective drug known as Herceptin, which could cause congestive heart failure. For Renee', it caused her heart chamber not to work properly but was controllable with medication, which she is still on today. Every week before her chemo treatment she had to see her cardiologist. "It was like doing a balancing act," says Renee'. In July, 2004 and July 2005, Renee' attended the camp in St Kitts. By October of 2004, Renee' had survived chemotherapy and had to go into surgery for a mastectomy. When they removed Renee's breast they found more cancer cells outside the tumor and had to remove four lymph nodes. Renee' had to start twelve more weeks of chemo-therapy and six weeks of daily radiation.

Throughout Renee's treatment she remained positive. She maintained her treatment schedule and hosted her friends in her home for parties at least once a month! "I took this as a challenge. I was aggressive and took the bull by the horns and refused to loose the battle to cancer. I do not know who cancer is but I am Renee' and I have a lot left to do on this earth. I had the best support group starting with Ian and continuing on with friends from all over the world" says Renee'. Even during the Chemo treatment with an I V in her arm, she was on the phone, selling travel and making arrangements for shipments of clothes and needed items to get to the children at the camp.

Renee' has been cancer-free since April 19th, 2005. "You must fight and not stop living, never give up!" Renee' states.. Renee' has recommended a very special book that helped her through many dark nights. The book is called *The Dream Giver* and is written by Bruce Wilkinson.

"Keep the faith, Be Strong, Fight to Win"

To Support Cancer Patients:

- Buy a pink NIBF Cancer awareness basketball only \$25.00
- Donate items from our wish list
- Monetary donations

NIBF has 501c3 status

If you want to talk about staying strong to survive and beat cancer, obtain more details, or to make a donation, please call Renee' at 312-953-7611 or email nibfhotline@hotmail.com



Wish list

- Monetary donations
- 30,000 American Airlines Miles to help us bring teachers/group leaders from USA to camp in St Kitts
- Elbow Pasta
- Adopt a camper program 150.00 per camper
- Suit cases medium to large on wheels
- Children's clothes and shoes
- Girls fancy dresses age 9-16
- Young girl make up kits
- Unbreakable drinking glasses
- Toys
- Craft items/school supplies
- Wheel chairs
- Electric scooters
- Twin sheet sets
- Artificial Christmas trees/decorations
- New sleeping pillows
- Male basketball uniforms
- Tooth brushes/paste
- Toilet paper/paper towels
- 300 lightweight folding chairs
- 100 new military cots