



## OCTOBER INSPIRATION



Strength  
in  
Numbers

# Linda Fries & Her Grandchildren

- Megan (9), Maria (8), Morgan (7), Mika (5) & Cody (3)

### “CANCER CAN TEAR FAMILIES APART... NOT THIS ONE!”

Facing adversity can have lasting impact on generations of a family. When faced with a diagnosis of cancer nine years ago, Linda Fries was single, uninsured and needed her family to help with her care. Her daughter was facing challenges of her own. She was raising a 6 month old, caring for a father-in-law with terminal cancer and struggling to keep two businesses going.

Linda said having her granddaughter Megan with her nearly every day, along with the loving care she received from her family and fiancé, gave her the strength to get through those very difficult days.

In the fall of 2004 a cancer-free diagnosis brought Linda's friends and family together in her first "Beating Cancer" picnic. And it's become a tradition ever since! The second Saturday of each September is now reserved for celebrating an extraordinary sense of jubilation and appreciation. The number of celebrants has progressively grown to nearly 70!

Linda's grandchildren Megan, Maria, Morgan, Mika and Cody have always heard their family talk openly about cancer. They've also become aware of the trials and tribulations associated with a disease that has the tendency to tear so many families apart. Fortunately, their family has been strengthened by the experience. In their own special

way, Megan, Maria, Morgan, Mika and Cody have learned to do what they can to help, whether it is stopping for a hug, performing yard work or practically any errand they can handle.

When Linda heard about the *PinkVette Cruisin' for a Cure Campaign*, she was immediately on board and received the nickname, Pinky. If you happened to venture into Pinky's path, you weren't getting away until you signed the car. In honor of Linda, all of her friends and family also participated in the Cruisin' for a Cure. Her grandchildren saved their allowances, emptied their parent's change jars and headed to the store to create their own gift basket for the PinkVette Charity Auction.

"Linda put her heart and soul into this project," explained Brian Bair, "I was honored to present her with the PinkVette MVP award, which is a corvette side mirror painted like the PinkVette." The Sunday following the auction, Linda looked down, smiled and reflected upon her piece of hope. Rightfully so, Brian Bair and David Gray named the PinkVette, Hope.

The lesson from this story is important for all of us... cancer can either make or break you. This is one family that stuck together and refused to be broken by the disease. We are proud to introduce Linda Fries and her grandchildren, Megan, Maria, Morgan, Mike and Cody as our October Faces of Health.

