



Patient: Rechill Veronda  
Husband: Mark Veronda  
Daughter: Maysen  
Family Dog: Maximus

by Simon Tchekmedyan, MD

I first met Rechill in December of 2001. A biopsy of lumps in her neck showed that she had Hodgkin's lymphoma. Additional tests showed it had spread to her chest. Rechill was only 24, married and working full-time.

Right from the beginning, I felt we connected with and trusted each other. In these situations, emotions run deep. Rechill wanted to work, raise a family, paint and enjoy life. Her cancer jeopardized every one of these goals.

After she completed her treatments, we celebrated the results: all signs of disease were gone. But her biggest question didn't come up until the summer of 2004, when she asked, "Is it OK for my husband and I to have a baby?" I put her through all the necessary tests, she was cancer free and she got the green light!

It did not take Rechill and her husband long – their baby is healthy and beautiful. As far as I am concerned, she has the green light for more.

## Determination



# Life Keeps on Giving

## Rechill Veronda

Rechill and Mark Veronda had been married only six months when she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. Rechill was 24. She had a full-time career in medical sales, plans to travel, plans to have children. Her husband, Mark had just helped start Iteration2, a Microsoft solution partner based in Irvine.

"Cancer turned our lives inside-out," Rechill says. "We were both scared and uneasy about our future."

For Mark, it was particularly difficult as he had just watched his mother suffer from breast cancer ten months earlier.

"I was in disbelief to hear that my wife had lymphoma," says Mark. "I really wasn't sure what to expect or how to respond."

They walked down that rough road together.

"I tried to stay strong and determined. I wanted to get better, be functional, and most importantly have a family. Enduring the treatment was hard," Rechill says. "Mark and I faced many challenges, but we got through it in the end."

Mark understood that "the healing process is a personal journey. I sometimes wanted to be alone, and Mark and my family understood."

While going through cancer treatment, Rechill painted. "Painting was an outlet for me," she says. "It allowed me to forget what I was going through." She insisted on helping decorate their new home, even painting the walls.

"All my trust and confidence is with Dr. Tchekmedyan, Dr. Chen, and their team; they saved my life," she says.

Rechill and Mark now have a boxer named Maximus and, in August, brought a baby girl named Maysen into their world.



Rechill's painting



Hodgkin's Lymphoma

