

Caring about cancer



MiniMag
Cares

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CHOC helps us understand the people that deal with cancer on a daily basis

We asked cancer survivor, Thando Nthuli, a couple of questions about living with cancer and her battle with the disease. This is her story:



Thando Nthuli
18 years old

I am a free-spirited person who is down to earth. I like to think of myself as being the most awesome person ever and I just love having fun with friends and family.

Was it difficult to keep up with schoolwork and did your friends and teachers help you?

Well, in the specific year that I got diagnosed, I immediately stopped attending school as I needed medical care as soon as possible. I was in a critical situation, hence, I couldn't do any schoolwork whatsoever.

Did you often miss school?

All the time.

Did you have a special diet and could you exercise?

Well, at first I didn't, but at a later stage I was prescribed a "special" milkshake which I was required to drink. I didn't exercise but went for physiotherapy.

Did having cancer change your daily routine, how?

Yes, because now I had to alter my life to best suit



Did you feel different to other children?

Yes, because I couldn't, and still can't, wear certain clothes of my choice due to scars. I often feel the need to cover up.

Do you think that you have become stronger because you were ill, and how?

Most definitely!! I can handle pain and deal with it accordingly by having an optimistic attitude. Be it physical pain or emotional pain, either way, I am a whole lot stronger.

Did your friends treat you differently?

No, I didn't allow them to.

When you first heard that you had cancer, did it frighten you?

Honestly, no, because I was young and literally knew nothing of that sort... To me it sounded something like flu, something that was going to get better in just a few days.