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# Vital signs: Northport native, breast cancer survivor

October 28, 2009 By ROSEMARY OLANDER [rosemary.olander@newsday.com](mailto:rosemary.olander@newsday.com)



Photo credit: Handout | Lauren Miller, a Northport native who now lives in Colorado, is the author of "Hearing His Whisper."

One Long Island native is making a single-handed national appeal to fight breast cancer, marking Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Tuesday by hosting a 24-hour book sale on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Lauren Miller, who grew up in Northport and calls herself a part-time Long Islander because of frequent visits, will donate 50 percent of her royalties for every copy sold that day of "Hearing His Whisper: A Journey Through Cancer and Divorce" (Tate Publishing, 2009) to breast cancer relief organizations. The book sells for \$15.99 on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), and Miller said she hopes to raise about \$100,000.

A 1985 graduate of Northport High School who lives in Highlands Ranch, Colo., Miller also works as a stress relief counselor and inspirational speaker. Her first book, "Hearing His Whisper," was a 2009 Indie Book Awards finalist in three categories - women's issues, inspirational and religious nonfiction. Her next book, "Mantras for the Mastectomies of Life," will be published soon, and she's at work on a third.

Diagnosed with stage-three breast cancer in 2006, when she was 38, Miller was given a 50 percent chance of survival. It was a crushing diagnosis for a woman devoted to martial arts - and to her three young children - and going through a divorce.

The book chronicles her personal conversations with Jesus as she endured chemotherapy, radiation, two mastectomies - and went through her divorce.

"This book is my own personal journal," Miller said. "Reading the book, you can see the transformation that happens as a result of my facing death. What I learned was that the wisdom that comes from life is available to everyone. You just have to get out of the way to be present to God."

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Through her book, Miller said she hopes those struggling with cancer will find hope and encouragement. "I've had tons of people, men and women, tell me this book reminds them of all the stuff they knew but forgot," she said, "that it's an awakening experience to be reminded that they're loved completely by the God of the universe, no exceptions."


Miller has been cancer-free for about a year. She said her oncologist calls her the "Wonder Woman of breast cancer," and it's that good fortune, she said, that makes her want to help others battling the disease.

Miller said she chose two charities to benefit from the event because of their commitment to direct contact with women diagnosed with breast cancer.

One of the organizations, Denver-based Sense of Security, provides financial assistance to women in cancer treatment, including paying for housing, utilities, groceries, transportation and insurance premiums.

The other organization is the national Breast Cancer Network of Support, which offers information and counseling to those diagnosed with breast cancer.

Miller said that in the past three years she's had four friends die from breast cancer. "You can't help but wonder, 'Why am I still here?' " she recalled telling one of her friends who was dying. "My friend told me that it was clear to her that I still had things to do." It's a mission she said she aims to fulfill.

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