



I feel like a kid in a candy store

11-20-99

Dearest Fran, Michele, and the Making Memories Foundation,

I'm writing you today to thank you from the bottom of my heart. The wholesale flower market, to me, is like a great big fairyland. The beauty of the flowers. The seasonal displays, the smell, the trinkets and spangles and all kinds of things that bring good cheer, are there every day!

I'm basking in the beauty and the joy of the gift you have given me. I never thought it possible to have the credentials to be able to be at the wholesale flower market. I get so excited when I'm there I forget I have breast cancer.

But your gift only begins there. When I was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in the liver, lung, and bone I had a lot to cope with. I was 52 and much of the joy went out of my life when I looked at what I was facing. But my friends, family and medical staff at the clinic rallied around me with such support and kindness that I soon began to feel better. I have such gratitude for all who helped me when I did not have the strength or energy to help myself. For those that stayed with me through the tests and chemotherapy treatments. Those that cheered me with a card or a meal or a spirit of hope. Your gift helps me show them how precious they are to me.

I am a novice at best but people say I have a way with flowers. If I can give to my supporters the delight of a fresh flower bouquet or a holiday floral arrangement, it brings joy to my heart. It is a way I can make something special just for them, and in some small way share the love they have shown me.

I'm so very grateful for all you have done. You have made a dream come true for me. I felt like a celebrity when you greeted me with roses and a chauffeured limousine. It was such a thrill! My first time in a limo. And the check you gave me helped me get a terrific start with flowers and supplies.

Something else happened that day. A spirit awoke in me that had been sleeping since the diagnosis. I came home and started thinking about taking a class in flower arranging at the community college.

And then of course, I'll need new clothes. *(something I haven't bought for myself for nearly two years, since I knew I wouldn't be here to wear them anyway)* Isn't life grand! Such a gift you have given me. Thank you for restoring my outlook on life and for helping me make many special memories with the flowers I share.

With best wishes to you always,

Barb Walters

Barbara Walters
Portland, Oregon

