

2022 Honorary Survivor – Ken Sabby

My name is Ken Sabby. I live in River Falls with my wife Audrey. I would like to thank the Relay for Life team for asking me to share the story about my cancer journey. I am living proof that miracles do happen.

Towards the end of 2017 I was having trouble swallowing food. When at my yearly check-up, I shared this information with my general practitioner at my yearly check-up. He scheduled an endoscopy for February 27. The next day we received the worst news. Not only did I have esophageal cancer, but the doctor told my wife, Audrey, and me that I only had one to three months to live. On March 1 we received the best call we have ever received. Amy Cernohous, otherwise known as “my angel”, called to introduce herself and let us know that cancer is not a death sentence. It was music to our ears! I had a CT scan on March 2, and we discovered that the esophageal cancer had spread to my liver. A liver biopsy was done on March 7, and it was decided that we needed to move quickly towards my treatment plan.



My oncologist decided the best plan would be a combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy. The port was put in on March 5 and the first of many chemotherapies and a few Keytruda treatments started on March 8 and continued until the end of December. Throughout my treatments I had lost 50 pounds and wasn't doing well at all. I couldn't eat or drink and was exhausted, a kind that you can only understand if you have gone through chemotherapy. By some miracle, my tumors had shrunk significantly by August and my body started to bounce back. By July 2019 my tumors had decreased in size to being nearly gone. My CT scans have shown no growth since then.

I am back to my pre-cancer self and am feeling better than ever. My journey would have been much more difficult without the wonderful care I received from everyone at the Virginia Piper Cancer Institute here in River Falls. I'll be forever grateful to everyone there.