

One Very Fiery Spirit

Introducing **Sara Jones**, the latest recruit for Athenaship who at only 33 years of age is a **two time Breast Cancer survivor** and a kick-butt firegirl in Virginia. She'll be joining Melissa, Florence, Robyn Benincasa, and two other Fundraising Goddesses on 'Team Project Athend' for **The 155k Coastal Challenge Expedition Run in Costa Rica starting Feb 1st.**



In her own words

"I will never forget September 2001: Not only was I mourning the loss of my firefighting brothers and sisters in the terrorist attacks on the twin towers; I was waiting to find out if I had a life threatening disease: breast cancer. I was dealing with all sorts of emotions. How would this impact my career as a firefighter? As my fellow firefighters and I awaited the call to ground zero, I received the dreaded news, and my reality became the fact that I had my own ground zero to fight right here, inside my own body. Little did I know that I was to embark on a journey of reinventing myself along the way, physically, mentally and spiritually... redefining myself as a whole.

*Surrender to whatever it takes, even twice. Life is about survival. What does that mean? Then it happens... 28 years old, aggressive breast cancer, given less than 50% chance of survival. Best shape of my life, a firefighter, gym owner. Breast cancer, not a death sentence! My second chance at life, OK lets fight. **WHATEVER IT TAKES... COURAGE!** Bi-lateral mastectomy, 6 months of chemo, 9 reconstructive surgeries. 4 years cancer free. Almost to 5... the magic number. Reoccurrence, 33 years old! My worst fear becomes reality. Fight again. Surgery, more reconstruction. Move to Houston, TX, radiation, burnt, scarred. Death sentence... **NO WAY.** 3rd chance at life. My purpose.. fight the battle for everyone, pay it forward... **WHATEVER IT TAKES... COURAGE!!!***



For more stories about courageous spirit and survival check out the current Athena recipients at http://www.projectathena.org/athenaship_recipients.php where anyone who has experienced life threatening illness can register for their own Adventure and Athenaship. By donating money in sponsorship of these amazing women you will also be helping to make dreams come true!