



# Bettie Jane Bryant

Breast Cancer Survivor



In early October 2008, “Ms. Bettie Jane”, as she is known by her students was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. By October 31<sup>st</sup> that same year, she underwent a double mastectomy followed by chemotherapy and radiation treatments. She is currently in the midst of her 5 year hormone therapy, but is considered Cancer-Free. Bettie Jane Bryant is an amazing dance educator, but beyond her expertise in dance, she is a remarkable and extremely accomplished woman and entrepreneur. She has owned and operated Bettie Jane’s Center of Dance Art for the last 52 years in Frederick, Maryland. She has built her business with her family values in mind, which is what attracts so many of her teachers, students, and dancer families to her. The majority of her faculty grew up and became educated in all forms of dance under her direction and instruction. Although the year she battled cancer was filled with many challenges and much exhaustion, she always remained positive and full of life. She has been called a “Hometown Hero” by many of her students and continues to be a role model to so many. She inspires us all to be the best we can be! As if making it to 50+ years as a dance educator and studio owner isn’t enough, she has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others battling cancer, as well. Once she started receiving her insurance coverage statements after her treatments, she realized just how costly fighting cancer can be, and she worried for those less fortunate than she, who were without health care. With that knowledge, she decided to host a local 5K Walk to benefit cancer patients in Frederick County. The first year of the walk raised \$10,000+ and after that first year, with the support of the Cancer Care Center, the Bettie Jane Cancer Foundation was born. She currently serves as President of the Foundation. There have been three annual walks to date, generating over \$40,000. She and the Board of Directors are always looking for new events and ideas to raise more money for the foundation. The website is [www.thebettiejane-cancer-foundation.org](http://www.thebettiejane-cancer-foundation.org) and her studio website is [www.bjcda.com](http://www.bjcda.com).

Ms. Bettie Jane is incredibly passionate about sharing her love of dance with her students and instructors, who, by the way she considers part of her family. Bettie Jane’s Center of Dance Art, Ms. Bettie and Mr. Jim, her husband (my father) have created, grown and nurtured this unique studio family and learning environment. As her daughter and fellow dance instructor, I, Carrie Bryant Render, would like to nominate her for this privilege of being honored by Costume Gallery as a Breast Cancer Survivor. My mother, Ms. Bettie, wakes everyday with joy and looking forward to her daily life as a dance educator. She is the most encouraging and inspirational woman I know. All that have come to know and love her have learned so much from her in dance and even more so from just life, in general, and especially throughout her battle with cancer. She teaches her students to be positive, energetic, have fun, do their best, and always reach for the stars!

This is an exceptional woman, who is always giving back to her community. In addition to the recent endeavors she has made to helping cancer patients, she has always given her annual recital proceeds to charity. In fact, over the last 50+ years, she has donated more than \$200,000 to the State and Local Chapters of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundations. Having lost 2 young students to this dreadful disease in the 70s, she was motivated and dedicated to helping others. So, as you can see, Bettie Jane Bryant is a mover and a shaker.....She makes things happen! And, the world is definitely a better place because she’s in it!

