

# VOLLEY FOR THE CURE

## MELANOMA AWARENESS

### Kim's Story

Kim (Manus) Alexander, played volleyball at Forrester High School and graduated in 1996. She received a 4 year scholarship to the Savannah College of Art and Design. Before she went back to college her Junior year, she wanted to see her dermatologist about her complexion. Dr. Sharata noticed a mole on her left front shoulder that he wanted to check. In the meantime she went back to school. A week later, we got a call that her mole was melanoma. She had to go see a dermatologist in Georgia to have more skin removed and to make sure they got all of the melanoma. They removed quite a bit and we were reassured that all was taken care of. We were never told that she should see an oncologist. Why? She just had a mole. Kim stayed out of the sun or always wore sunscreen, if she was going to be in it. We thought that would keep it away.

As parents, we never went to the internet to find out about Melanoma. We just thought it was a mole. Not deadly skin cancer. We did not know that it would reappear as a brain tumor and a tumor in her stomach that eventually ruptured her colon and took her life. Melanoma is the most chemo resistant fastest growing cancer that there is. Nothing could stop the growth of the tumor. There are no blood barriers for Melanoma. Tumors can be everywhere. She fought a tough 8 month battle and lost on January 7th, 2010.

After one chemo checkup, she asked her doctor if she would be able to play volleyball. He said, "Maybe, Did you play before you had cancer?!!!"

Her family just wants everyone to realize that Melanoma is not just about checking for moles. It is cancer. Go to the internet and check out the websites about Melanoma and read about the best things to do to help prevent it. Kim had a fair complexion and we never put sunscreen on her as a child .(Sun screen should be applied 15 minutes before exposure to the sun.) She did tan a little in the tanning beds at prom time, but never tanned all year long as some do.

Kim left behind her husband Thomas and their two little girls Ashleigh and Ericka.

Her brother, Randy and his family

Her parents, Rick and Beth Manus

(Thanks to Kristy Pierce for making it possible to get the word out)