



FACES OF FLORIDA

Kristie
TEAL

Kristie grew up in Southern California and spent every moment at the beach when she wasn't attending school. With her fair skin, she was accustomed to getting a sunburn the first few times out in the summer sun, but she looked forward to being tan after a few sunburns. At the time, sunscreen was an afterthought for Kristie. In January 2016, at the age 42 and mother of two elementary school aged children, Kristie was diagnosed with stage 3 melanoma after a mole appeared on her back. Less than six months later, after three major surgeries and radiation, she would discover that the melanoma had already spread, and she was now a stage 4 cancer patient. The melanoma had spread to her breast, lungs and liver.

Skin cancer is much more significant than most people understand, and she now realizes it can involve so much more than simply having a mole removed. It has now been just over three years since her diagnosis. After immunotherapy treatments, Kristie is proud to say that she currently has NED (no evidence of disease). High SPF sunscreen is now a significant part of her daily routine, as well as for her family members. Her children were 6 and 11 when she was diagnosed, so they were old enough to see and understand all that she went through. Kristie reminds her family almost daily that the best way they can protect themselves (and hopefully avoid all the suffering of skin cancer) is to continue using quality, high SPF sunscreen.



"The proper use of high SPF sunscreen is critical to remain sun safe and protecting your skin. Skin cancer, especially melanoma, is life threatening and I do everything possible to protect my family from experiencing the pain and suffering caused by skin cancer. We typically use an SPF 70 or higher when choosing our sunscreen, but when I have a choice I use the highest SPF possible. Fighting melanoma was one of the hardest battles of my life, so I urge everyone to wear protective sunscreen and clothing."