

## Meet Sharon Copeland from Dungannon - a breast cancer survivor

**Sharon discovered she had breast cancer in 2012, when she was just 30.**

*"My daughter Sophie was just 18 weeks old at the time of my diagnosis and I was determined to make sure I would be around to see her grow up. I felt numb, like it wasn't really happening to me, and it didn't really sink in until I started to tell people and treatment actually started," Sharon says.*



Sharon's mum, Margaret, was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2000. After Sharon had been diagnosed with the disease in 2012, Margaret attended a routine mammogram that revealed she had developed a completely different type of cancer in her other breast.

**Tests revealed that Sharon and her mum were BRCA mutant gene carriers which means that they have a 50% - 80% risk of developing breast cancer during their lifetime - and that there is a 50% chance of these faulty genes being passed on to Sharon's daughter, Sophie.**

*Sharon added "We both made the huge decision to have double mastectomies, the only way to drastically reduce our chance of getting cancer. It was a very bold choice but I knew it had to be done – I have to be here for Sophie. I had reconstruction surgery at the same time as the mastectomy – this isn't always an option but I think it would have been much more difficult psychologically otherwise.*

*"Sophie will have to wait until she is 18 years old if she wants to be tested. There's no point in worrying about it; thanks to your donations there are going to be so many medical advances over the next 14 years she may never have to worry, even if she is a carrier."*

**Thanks to research into the disease, Sharon and Margaret hope that scientific developments will mean a brighter future for Sophie and many other local people. Our pioneering research is so important for generations to come - thank you for your support!**



Thank you for fundraising

**PINK**

**The difference your donation will make...**



All the **In Pink** money you raise and donate will go towards research being carried out into the BRCA mutant gene at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) by Dr Kienan Savage and his team, funded by Cancer Focus NI.

Progress is being made in understanding BRCA and tests are being conducted to find new and better ways of detecting, treating and preventing cancer in people who carry mutations in BRCA.

Your donation helps us fund this pioneering research. £200 funds half a day of research and each donation brings us closer to the breakthrough which could mean that many women will no longer have to choose drastic surgery to reduce their risk of developing breast cancer.

For more information please contact:

**T: 028 9066 3281**

**E: [fundraising@cancerfocusni.org](mailto:fundraising@cancerfocusni.org)**

**W: [www.cancerfocusni.org](http://www.cancerfocusni.org)**

If you have any questions about cancer please call our free Nurseline **T: 0800 783 3339**



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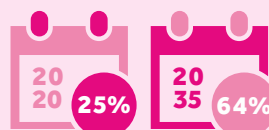
### **BREAST CANCER**

IS THE MOST COMMON CANCER IN LOCAL WOMEN ACCOUNTING FOR **29.7% OF ALL FEMALE CANCERS**



### **1300 WOMEN**

ON AVERAGE DIAGNOSED EVERY YEAR IN NI AND 300 LOSE THEIR LIVES



### **BY 2020**

THERE WILL BE A **25%** INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF BREAST CANCER CASES IN WOMEN IN NI, AND A **64%** BY 2035



### **£200 WILL FUND**

HALF A DAY'S WORK BY OUR RESEARCHERS