



CÉRÉMONIE D'OUVERTURE 2011

TÉMOIGNAGE D'ISABELLE

Good evening !

My name is Isabelle and I have just turned 51 –

We were living in Ireland when I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2006. At the time, I got tremendous support from the Irish MS Society. By now, you probably think that I snatched the wrong script before rushing out to meet you.

Not this time!

Naive and over optimistic as I was, I thought that I had already received my share of serious illnesses and that I was safe now!

!!WRONG!!

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in April of 2010, had 2 operations and nearly 6 weeks of radio-therapy.

Fortunately, the tumour was discovered early and I was spared chemo-therapy.

One of my first moves was to contact the '*Fondation Cancer*' in order to get reliable information and support.

Just, as I had experienced previously with the MS Society, the '*Fondation Cancer*' was a tremendous help in my battle with cancer.

A great example of many is their psychological service.

Being able to talk openly to a professional who listens and understands is extremely valuable in the process of coming to terms with this new and highly stressful situation.

How do I keep my spirits up?

- With MS, as well as cancer I discovered that the only way I manage to remain sane is to take life a day at the time.
Worrying about the future will definitely not change the future.
- Every coin has 2 sides.
Life's challenge is to discover a silver lining even in the dark cloud of illness.
- My most important weapon though is the daily routine of saying thank you for all the great people and the bright sides in my life - past and present - that I tend to take for granted

Please, help the '*Fondation Cancer*' to support the continuing research efforts, so that for more and more patients, cancer is not the **end** and can even be the **beginning** of a richer life.

Thank you!