



MEET LINDA

The reason I am writing this letter is because for the first time in my life, I am in a difficult financial situation. I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Breast Cancer in May 2008 that forced me to quit my job. At the same time, my son was laid off from his employer. My husband is the only one working, trying to keep us "out of water". We have been married for over 30 years and previously we lived a very modest life style but were always able to pay our bills.

For the past year, my husband has done a wonderful job in helping me through my surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatments. About 2 months ago, his employer, a non-profit organization, cut his hours to 32 hours per week. We have applied for state aid and food stamps but were denied. The bills are starting to pile up and we are afraid we may be evicted from our duplex of 11 years if we are not able to pay the full rent (\$1,040/month). Additionally we are struggling to purchase groceries. My oncologist recommends a healthy diet but fresh vegetables and fruit costs money so I eat whatever we can afford. My husband and son are looking for additional employment but times are tough. I hope to return to work once I feel better.

Currently, I am volunteering a few hours a month at the Latinas Contra Cancer Center helping them organize the support groups and various activities. When I get better, I'm hoping to do more and also give back to the doctors, nurses and staff at the Valley Medical Center. Both of these organizations have been so wonderful to me and other cancer patients.

I would appreciate any help I can get. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and opening your heart to people in need.

Sincerely,

Linda