

JENNIFER GOODMAN LINN was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in 2004 – and told her odds of beating it were 50-50 after surgeons removed a cantaloupe-size tumor from her abdomen.

The gutsy fitness enthusiast vowed that if she survived, she'd repay the hospital that gave her a fighting chance – and she's been true to her word.

She founded an indoor spinning fundraiser, Cycle for Survival, that's raised nearly \$5 million for cancer research.

"I REALIZED THAT I COULD either admit defeat or use the cancer to do a good thing. The choice seemed clear," says Jennifer, 39, who's had five relapses, eight courses of chemotherapy and six operations since her initial diagnosis. "Cycling enabled



Courageous Jennifer has had eight courses of chemotherapy

Acts of kindness

All across the country, every day, good people perform acts of kindness for strangers. Only rarely do they receive recognition for their selfless work. In our ongoing series, The ENQUIRER will put the spotlight on those who care enough to make life better for those around them.

me to push myself to the best of my ability every day, and I believe that it saved my life.

"I might have cancer but cancer doesn't have me, and the minute I change my life for the disease, it wins."

After undergoing treatment at a New York hospital, marketing execu-

JEN: 6
CANCER: 0

"I might have cancer but cancer doesn't have me"

Jennifer Goodman Linn and husband Dave. She credits cycling with saving her life

Cycle for Survival
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

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A NEW SPIN ON LIFE!



Woman who survived rare, deadly cancer starts charity that has **RAISED \$5 MILLION FOR RESEARCH**

tive Jennifer and her husband Dave founded Cycle for Survival (www.cycleforsurvival.com) in 2007.

"I was sick, I like to cycle, I got some friends together," she said. "We thought we might raise \$10,000."

But thanks to go-getter Jennifer, Cycle for Survival has mushroomed from a handful of teams in her New York Equinox gym to a 500-team event that's now among the fastest-growing cancer research charities in the U.S.

JENNIFER HAS SARCOMA of the abdomen. As a rare cancer, pharmaceutical firms won't invest big bucks to find a cure. So Cycle for Survival takes a different approach.

Jennifer defies her illness by skydiving. Above, she presents a check for \$2.2 million intended for research



"We sat down with doctors and asked how we could funnel this money so it best serves them," Jennifer explained.

"Creating a new drug costs millions of dollars. We're not trying to do that. We're trying to fund research about rare cancers so pharmaceutical companies see the opportunity to create new chemo cocktails. Even just \$100,000 can make a huge difference when it comes to a trial."

The money raised by Cycle for Survival in 2009 alone funded three new drug trials, as well as a new chemotherapy treatment.

While Jennifer has her dark moments, she says: "I have great hope that this will ultimately lead to more treatment breakthroughs and higher survival rates for those with rare cancers, so that more of us will live to tell our unique tales."

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