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"Some people think that just the act of living day-to-day is what defines a survivor, and I certainly feel that way sometimes. However, I also believe being a survivor takes commitment to be out there for the world to see while braving everything that life throws your way." - Mike

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BethAnn's Story

I have always been a competitive person and fought to be the best I can be in everything I do. Like anyone suffering from a brain tumor, I have had very difficult days where I doubt my abilities and myself since being diagnosed six years ago. Through my friends, my family, and my own character, I am able to push past the hard times and continue to beat this disease. The hardest part has been having to rely on others for things I once took for granted. For instance, I am not able to drive. However, through this challenge, I have gained a tremendous set of friends that are more than willing to help in any area I need assistance.

Going through this has opened my eyes to the large number of people affected by brain tumors. I cannot tell you the number of people that have spoken to me about relatives or friends who are battling, or who have lost, their battle with this disease. I've heard stories from everyone; from the older generations whose wives or husbands have passed away, to young children who have had to fight a disease beyond their maturity. It has inspired me to dedicate my life to raising awareness and research funds.

The GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME® Brain Tumor Awareness Movement is a chance for me to continue the mission I've been on for the past six years. I feel privileged to be a part of the Movement, and to help put a face on a disease with many people suffering behind the scenes. In a small way, it's nice to know that what I am doing has the potential to help and inspire others.

The diagnosis of a brain tumor does not mean the end of being able to do the things you wish to do. I have been able to push myself beyond where I ever thought I would, both physically and emotionally. Prior to my diagnosis, I might have kept my dream of finishing a full Ironman Triathlon (2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bicycle, 26.2 marathon) on a shelf. Since my disease, I am determined to do things and not put them off. I am proud to say I have fulfilled some of my life-long dreams, including running the prestigious Boston Marathon, and finishing the Ford Lake Placid Ironman Triathlon – twice! I am scheduled to compete in both of these events again this year, and could not be more thrilled.

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