NEWS RELEASE

#NonstopFight: 10 Questions with Jean Holloway

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Thousands of our team members are engaged in a nonstop fight with breast cancer, whether they are patients, caregivers, family, friends or champions of research. Team members with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) are engaged in a very literal nonstop fight. MBC is cancer that has spread beyond the breast to other organs in the body (most often the bones, lungs, liver or brain) and although it is treatable, it has no cure. MBC claims the lives of approximately 40,000 women and men each year.

Jean Holloway, director, Communications and Development at PSA Airlines, one of American's wholly owned regional carriers, was diagnosed with MBC 10 months ago. And although she had aspirations of being a ballerina when she was younger, she's loved her past two years in the aviation industry.

The money that American raises for Susan G. Komen is dedicated to their Young Investigators Grant Program, which focuses on finding a cure for MBC and Stage 4 breast cancer. In American's 34-year partnership with Susan G. Komen, we've raised more than $36 million.

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Jean's diagnosis came as a shock. She didn't have a family history of breast cancer, and when she found a lump in her right breast, she at first attributed it to a clogged duct. A breast MRI and a PET scan would soon reveal that it was actually breast cancer, and it had spread to her liver and bones. She shares her story and awareness as part as our #NonstopFight series, which puts a spotlight on MBC through the stories of our team members who are courageously taking on breast cancer:

How many doctor visits do you have each year?
Soon after my diagnosis, I was going at least weekly, sometimes multiple times per week. I received 12 rounds of chemotherapy over a four-month period. Currently, I go to the doctor twice monthly.

How many medications are you on?
I take a daily chemotherapy pill targeting the tumors in my liver. My breast cancer is estrogen and progesterone positive (meaning my tumors feed on these hormones) so I also take a daily hormone-blocking pill to put me in a post-menopausal state. I get an infusion once per month to strengthen my bones and an injection shot of a hormone blocker.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?
Keep moving forward and take it day-by-day. Depression comes from focusing on the past. Anxiety comes from focusing on the future.

Why do you think research is important?
This disease has been portrayed as something you fight and beat and then you are a part of this fun community of women that wear pink. That is simply not the case. Each year, 200,000 Americans are diagnosed with breast cancer. Ten percent of these diagnoses are metastatic, and approximately another 30 percent of breast cancer patients will develop metastatic breast cancer. And 100 percent of those diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer will die from it. However, only 2 percent of breast cancer donations go to metastatic research. Most money raised goes toward early detection and awareness. Although those two things are important, they do not save lives. The only way to survive is to raise money for research that will discover a cure for Stage 4. I do not want to be one of the 113 women who die daily of metastatic breast cancer.

What are you most afraid of?
My greatest fear is that my 3-year-old son, Eliot, will grow up without his mommy. I also fear the pain my death would cause my mom and dad. No parent should have to bury their child.

Now to some things you enjoy. What is your best non-rev experience?
This past summer, I was traveling home with my family from Destin, Florida (VPS), to Charlotte, when my flight was diverted and grounded in South Carolina due to storms. Eliot was getting very restless, and the crew was kind enough to invite him to hang out with the captain in the cockpit. The crew turned a stressful situation into a fun one and made memories that will last us a lifetime.

Do you have a favorite vacation spot?
Key West is one of my favorite places. My husband and I go there often. We even got married on the beach there on New Year's Eve in 2013.

What are you currently reading?

I just finished Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn. I love the dark stuff.

What are three things you always bring with you when traveling?

Socks, iPad and gummy bears.