

What I know: Bill Henderson, cancer survivor

2:06 PM, Jun. 25, 2012 | Comments

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Bill Henderson, 58, Greenwood was treated for tongue and throat cancer in 2011. / Photo provided by Cigna

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Bill Henderson is a survivor.

Diagnosed with tongue and throat cancer in April 2011, the 58-year-old Greenwood man has survived surgeries, radiation and the loss of 50 pounds while his muscles wasted away.

Henderson has been on long-term disability from a career in sales. At first, he had trouble even getting out of a recliner chair.

But his recovery took a dramatic turn for the better in October, when Henderson's health insurance company, Cigna, set him up with host of rehabilitation services, including a personal trainer, as part of a new program

After a few months of therapy and training provided by Achilles International, he was strong enough to walk in the Achilles Hope &

Possibility 5-mile race through Central Park in New York on June 24. (Cigna covered all of the travel expenses for Henderson and his wife, Gail.)

The Hendersons have two grown children: Andrew, 37, Indianapolis, and Leah Nutini, 32, New Albany.

Survival, he said, has led to a renewed faith in God as well as a deep appreciation for the support of his family. He is considering becoming a pastor, a career he had pursued in the past.

"The apostle Paul likened our spiritual journey to a race with a prize at the end, and he encouraged us to 'press toward the mark,' " Henderson told The Star days before leaving on the New York trip. "On June 24, I'll complete a 5-mile marathon, and I look forward to saying, 'I see the finish line.' "

Henderson said anyone can contact him at henderson_w@msn.com. We asked him to tell us more about his battle with cancer and what keeps him driving forward during his recovery.