

## No One Fights Alone

I wear the wristband  
Because my friend has stage four  
I wear the wristband  
because my uncle and grandfather were dropped in their forties by the Big C  
I wear the wristband because I've driven a friend to chemo  
so tired from the drive he was exhausted  
and had to sit for an hour to make the drive home.  
I wear the wristband for the friend who wanted children  
but got ovarian cancer that took her in a matter of months.  
I wear the wristband for the colleague who lost her hair  
and admonished me not to smoke again  
with the cute girls who tried to tempt me.  
I wear the wristband for my mother,  
the woman who sacrificed her whole life to make mine better.  
I wear the wristband for the Relay for Life  
honoring those who remember the history of the heart  
and watched those they loved wither away like dying flowers.  
I wear the wristband for a cure,  
for a hope that we will support life over death  
I wear the wristband so no one fights alone.

- John Koetzner