

Former teacher continues fight against endometriosis

By Luci Weldon | Posted: Friday, June 20, 2014 6:00 am

Cherrelle Lawrence, a former Warren County High School teacher, continues her fight against endometriosis as she prepares for major surgery scheduled for tomorrow.

With many family members from Warren County, she remains active in her community, serving as marketing and public relations assistant at Greenwood Baptist Church near Warrenton in spite of the medical condition that has become part of her daily life.

In her teens, Lawrence began experiencing symptoms of endometriosis, a painful disorder in which tissue that normally lines the uterus grows outside the uterus. However, she was told by doctors that the pain was caused by a heavy monthly cycle or was in her mind.

As she grew older, Lawrence underwent a number of medical procedures, but not for problems related to endometriosis. In January 2012, she was diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis, in which blood clots form in the body's major arteries. Three months later, when Lawrence underwent surgery to removed visible endometriosis, she was diagnosed with a Stage IV case of the disease. By the fall of 2013, the endometriosis had grown back.

Since then, Lawrence founded #HerYellowRibbon to increase awareness about the disease and to provide support for women who are battling endometriosis. In March of this year, she participated in the Million Women March for Endometriosis on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

For her efforts to increase awareness about the painful disease, Lawrence was nominated for the Endo Hero of the Year award by the Worldwide Endo March organization.

As she continues her awareness campaign to help women, she has established a crowdfunding campaign to help with expenses related to tomorrow's surgery. Donations are accepted at the site, gofundme.com/HerEndoJourney with a goal of raising \$5,000. So far, more than \$1,900 has been raised.

Lawrence has said that she is doing well as she anticipates the medical procedure, which will involve removal of endometriosis lesions. In addition, doctors will check for non-cancerous tumors and conduct tests to determine if she will be able to have children in the future. The recovery period for her surgery is expected to be a number of weeks.

Lawrence maintains a blog on her crowdfunding site, where she has expressed her excitement about the upcoming surgery. Even though the procedure will be extensive, Lawrence remains prayerful and hopeful that it will turn her life around.