Cancer has touched most of us in the area — either directly or through someone we know and/or love.
One of the moments that stands out for me while living through my father's cancer diagnosis and treatment was the day he lost most of his hair.

I had gone into the bathroom to take a shower and when I pulled back the curtain, there it was. At first I thought, "Sheesh, who left that there?" Then I realized what it was and why. I immediately sat down on the stool and cried. It was the first physical sign my father was sick and he might not make it. We had all tried to stay positive and upbeat and were pretty much ignoring the darker side of the disease.

It's what we had to do to carry on day after day.

Everything changed after that. It was real. It was happening to us.

Rebecca Sypin is one of the people behind a Facebook campaign urging Mattel to create a bald Barbie, one she says children battling cancer and other diseases that cause hair loss can relate to.

Sypin knows about children and cancer. Her daughter is battling leukemia.
The Beautiful and Bald Barbie Facebook page has been up and running for less than a month and already has more than 65,000 friends. But despite that support, bald Barbie has gotten a cool reception from Mattel. A bald Barbie may still be a possibility. Mattel released a written statement Thursday saying the company is honored that so many people are looking to Barbie as the face of such an important cause.

"We receive hundreds of passionate requests for various dolls to be added to our collection," the statement reads. "We take all of them seriously and are constantly exploring new and different dolls to be added to our line."

Many have had a problem with the buxom blond and her curvy attributes. She doesn't represent most of the real women we know — a few but not the majority. Even her impossibly tanned and toned boyfriend, Ken, is an unrealistic portrayal of the common man. Sorry guys.

Being different can be tough for a kid. It can also be a way for children to ostracize each other. Children can be as mean as snakes. Don't take offense. You know it's true. They latch on to any little thing and they're off and running.

For children dealing with cancer and the loss of their hair, Bald Barbie can serve as an ambassador. They can look at her and know that if Barbie doesn't have hair, it must be OK. It can also help with children whose parents may be struggling with cancer treatments and have lost their hair. I imagine if it frightened me, it would absolutely frighten a child.

So, go to Facebook, check out the Bald Barbie page and let's help the fantastic, plastic lady who gave us hours of fun and stretched our imaginations as little girls help put the next generation at ease.