



Mum declares war on cancer and wins

BRITTANY VONOW

JOSIE Dietrich should have been bouncing with joy following the birth of her son but the diagnosis of an aggressive form of breast cancer shattered her life.

At 35, the Herston mum was given the heartbreaking diagnosis of triple positive breast cancer, found during a routine check in 2009, which was made even more terrifying by the fact she had seen her mother succumb to the illness four years earlier.

"It was horrendous, it was definitely a very dark, tricky period of my life," she said.

Despite catching the cancer early, Ms Dietrich faced four months of chemotherapy, a double mastectomy, hysterectomy and the removal of her cervix.

And she was juggling the challenges of new-found motherhood with her then eight-month-old son Felix.

"It was like this massive organisation bend, I was very

ill and it was hard to cope," Ms Dietrich said.

But thanks to a new drug treatment from the US, she was given a greater chance.

"It's very profound, the change in your life knowing you had a chance because someone down the line has done some work to get there," she said.

Now cancer-free, Ms Dietrich and women she met during the treatment are banding together to support the research.

Their partners joined the "Breast Friends to Conquer Cancer" team, swelling the ranks of the 2000 riders for the 200km-plus Rio Tinto Ride to Conquer Cancer held over the weekend.

All proceeds go towards cancer research at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research.

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OR CALL 1300 11 RIDE TO DONATE
TO THE CAUSE OR TO REGISTER
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WINNING: Josie Dietrich with her son Felix, 5. Josie is now cancer free after battling breast cancer. Picture: Darren England