When her sister was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996, Neel vowed to do everything she could to end this disease. After helping launch the first Komen Charlotte Race for the Cure in 1997, her vow became even more personal in 1999 when she herself was diagnosed with breast cancer while serving as the Co-chair of the Charlotte Race.

Neel, now a two-time survivor since 2016, has been a passionate volunteer locally, nationally and internationally. Locally, she was a founding board member of Komen Charlotte, trained more than 100 speakers to go into the community to educate people about breast health and breast cancer, founded, with her sister, Scouting for the Cure™ to teach Girl Scouts and their families about breast health and breast cancer, has served on a host of Komen Charlotte committees and is now working with N.C. legislators to pass the N.C. Cancer Treatment Fairness Act.

Nationally and internationally, Neel designed and facilitated leadership training for Komen volunteers across the country. She served as one of 25 U.S. delegates to the first Global Advocate Summit in Budapest, Hungary in 2007 and later as a panelist for the first Middle East/North Africa Breast Cancer Advocacy Conference in Amman, Jordan. Neel won Komen’s prestigious “Outstanding Volunteer of the Year” award in 2012.

Neel is a passionate educator and advocate and won’t stop until there is a world without breast cancer.