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MORE THAN PINK™: SUSAN G. KOMEN ORANGE COUNTY RACE FOR THE CURE® CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Thousands of breast cancer warriors unite in a shared vision: a world without breast cancer

COSTA MESA, Calif., Sept. 26, 2016 – Sunday was a day of hope, celebration and courage as more than 15,000 [Susan G. Komen Orange County](#) supporters returned to Fashion Island in Newport Beach for the [25th Annual Susan G. Komen Orange County Race for the Cure®](#). The largest breast cancer fundraiser in Orange County encouraged all participants to raise funds for breast cancer awareness, education and services. This year's theme, "The End of Breast Cancer Starts with You," declared that there is a place for everyone in the fight to end breast cancer.

Proudly celebrating its 25th Anniversary as a [Susan G. Komen](#) affiliate, the nonprofit expects to meet its fundraising goal of more than \$2 million — with preliminary totals currently at \$1 million. Long after the last Race participant crosses the finish line, Race for the Cure fundraising efforts will continue. In fact, they will go through the end of October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"We were truly blown away by the support of all those who share our dream of one day living in a world without breast cancer," said Lisa Wolter, executive director of Komen Orange County. "As we celebrate 25 years, this Race marks a special milestone for our organization and the breast health community – decreased mortality rates, better treatment options and more local breast health resources – but there is still so much left to do in our communities."

There was a race for each level of athlete, with the first 5K at 7:15 a.m. for experienced runners who chose the [PLUS Timing Chip](#) option to track their race time. Shortly after, Snoopy kicked off the annual Kids One-Mile Fun Run and Family Walk presented by [Knott's Berry Farm](#), which united families with a vision of a future free of breast cancer. Those preferring a more leisurely pace participated in the second 5K at 9:45 a.m.

"My entire Race committee would agree with me in saying our 25th Annual Race for the Cure was one for the books," said Doug McKay, third-year chair of Komen Orange County's Race for the Cure. "All participants truly took our Race theme to heart and stepped up to fundraise and support our vital services and programs in the community, and that's inspirational."

Along with the three races, more than 850 survivors courageously marched to the steps of Pacific Life Insurance Company (Home of the Race), for the emotional Breast Cancer Survivor Tribute. Donning pink survivor t-shirts and wearing strands of pink beads with each strand signifying years of survivorship, survivors celebrated their fight through breast cancer and memorialized lives lost from the disease. Three Orange County breast cancer warriors shared their inspiring stories of winning their breast cancer battles. They included:

- Mission Viejo resident **Dani Lynne Daniels** has been an oncology social worker for more than 20 years. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago, those who she had supported through her career turned around and provided the same support for her during her journey. She completed treatment 16 months ago and has since been cancer-free. This year's Race marks her 16th year as a team captain.

- One month after her 2007 breast cancer diagnosis, Laguna Niguel resident **Kathy Miller** had surgery to remove the small mass on her left breast followed by 35 weeks of radiation and five years of medication. In 2009, she began volunteering with nonprofit and Komen grantee, Breast Cancer Solutions, where she assists other women with breast cancer. Miller also was recognized as the “Most Inspirational Breast Cancer Survivor” at this year’s Komen Orange County Survivor Celebration and Awards Luncheon. Since 2009, she has participated in Race for the Cure with team “The Miller Time.”
- Laguna Niguel resident **Sandra Spivey** was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer in her bones 18 years ago. Against all odds, she survived the average three-year lifespan for this disease. Spivey is now a strong advocate in the fight against metastatic breast cancer and works to educate others by bringing a face to the disease. She also helps involve the scientific community to encourage research funding for this breast cancer type.

The 25th Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure by the numbers:

- There were more than 445 teams, the largest being [First American Caring for Our Community](#) with 330 members.
- More than 1,400 volunteers from Orange County and all over the world assisted at booths, water stations and on the course.

Carla Cammack holds the title for top individual fundraiser, having raised \$22,475 to-date for this year’s Race.

[Komen Cures](#) is the top fundraising team, with a current fundraising total of \$25,794.

In the first of two 5K races, Eric Tavera was the top male finisher with a time of 16:16; Julie Ertel was the top female finisher with a time of 18:45. In the second 5K, Jim Hearst won the men’s race with a time of 20:31 and Annabelle Boudreau won the women’s race with a time of 20:20. The top survivor finishers were Caroline McAndrews in the first 5K with a time of 22:22 and Diane Koch in the second 5K with a time of 29:15.

Since 1982, Susan G. Komen has invested more than \$920 million in research, making Komen the largest nonprofit funder of breast cancer research outside the U.S. government. This year, the organization also has announced a “Bold Goal” to reduce the nation’s 40,000 breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in the next decade. This announcement comes with the introduction of its More Than Pink™ campaign, which proves to supporters that Komen represents more than just the color pink – and builds on the progress of the breast cancer movement since Komen was founded in 1982.

Seventy-five percent of the funds raised through Komen Orange County events and initiatives support local breast cancer awareness and education programs, and diagnostic and treatment services for uninsured and underinsured women. The other 25 percent is allocated for the Komen Award and Research Grant Program to fund groundbreaking breast cancer research, and to support Komen researchers in their quest for a breast cancer cure.

Local Presenting Sponsors include The Allergan Foundation, Chevron, Knott’s Berry Farm, Ralphs and Food 4 Less. **Platinum Sponsors** are ABC7 and Pacific Life Insurance Company (Home of the Race). **Diamond Sponsors** are 100.3 The Sound, Fashion Island, First American Title Insurance Company, Hot Ticket Racing, Carol and Becky Burch and The Orange County Register. **Gold Sponsors** are Macy’s, Park Newport Apartment Community and Spa Gregorie’s Day Spa & Salons. **Silver Sponsors** include Cox Communications, Greenburg Traurig, LLP, Myriad Genetics, Smart Levels Media and Sparkling Ice.

About Susan G. Komen®

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit outside of the federal government while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than \$920 million in research and provided more than \$2 billion in funding to screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs serving millions of people in more than 30 countries worldwide. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. Visit komen.org or call 1-877 GO KOMEN. Connect with us on social at ww5.komen.org/social.

For more information on Susan G. Komen Orange County, visit www.komenoc.org or call 714-957-9157. Connect on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).