



**Media Contacts:**  
Kristina Sarenas/Jennifer Main  
HKA Inc., Marketing Communications  
(714) 426-0444  
[kristina@hkamarcom.com](mailto:kristina@hkamarcom.com)/[jennifer@hkamarcom.com](mailto:jennifer@hkamarcom.com)

## **24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUSAN G. KOMEN ORANGE COUNTY RACE FOR THE CURE RALLIES SUPERHEROES IN FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER**

*Survivors, superheroes and other caped crusaders help to raise \$1.5 million and counting*

COSTA MESA, Calif., Sept. 28, 2015 – More than 18,000 [Susan G. Komen Orange County](#) supporters, some donning pink capes and other superhero accessories, returned to Fashion Island in Newport Beach on Sunday, Sept. 27, for the [24<sup>th</sup> Annual Susan G. Komen Orange County Race for the Cure®](#). One of the largest Race for the Cure events in California, the annual fundraiser mobilizes community members to raise critical funds for breast cancer awareness, education, prevention and treatment. In recognition of this year's theme, "There's a HERO in YOU," superheroes and caped crusaders of all ages united in support of the Komen mission: *saving lives*.

Event organizers expect to meet its fundraising goal of more than \$2 million — with preliminary totals currently at \$1.5 million. Race for the Cure participants are encouraged to fundraise through October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, with Oct. 31 the deadline to receive all donations.

"On Sunday we witnessed truly super-heroic efforts to help us get one step closer to a world without this terrible disease," said Lisa Wolter, executive director of Komen Orange County. "It's inspiring to see supporters come from all over Orange County, and beyond, to help us raise funds that are critically needed. We loved the support of so many true superheroes wearing Komen pink capes who embraced our mission of providing life-changing breast cancer treatment, education, and groundbreaking research."

There was something for every type of competitor. More serious runners tested the new [PLUS Timing Chip option](#) which kicked off the early 5K at 7:15 a.m. Snoopy was the official starter of the second annual Kids One-Mile Fun Run and Family Walk presented by [Knott's Berry Farm](#), which brought families together to envision a world without breast cancer for future generations. Late-risers and those preferring a slower pace chose the last 5K at 9:45 a.m.

"Although we always set extremely high expectations for ourselves, this year was special and seeing all the superheroes was a tremendous reminder that you don't need special powers to step up and be a hero – just hope, inspiration and dedication to defeat breast cancer," said Doug McKay, 2015 race chair and the first male chair in the history of Komen Orange County's Race for the Cure. "I believe the entire Race committee would agree with me that this year's Race was fabulously successful."

Along with the three races, more than 1,000 survivors gathered on the steps of Pacific Life Insurance Company (Home of the Race), to be honored during an inspirational Breast Cancer Survivor Tribute. Donning Komen pink super-hero capes and wearing strands of pink beads with each strand signifying another year of survivorship, survivors celebrated life and honored those who lost their battle to the disease. Three local breast cancer survivors and advocates shared their emotional personal journeys:



- Six-year breast cancer survivor **Bill Mimiaga**, 69, of Costa Mesa was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008. Within 24 hours of his diagnosis, Mimiaga had surgery on his left side and his right breast was later removed. He underwent eight months of chemotherapy alongside 30 to 40 women, and was the only man in the room. A Marine for 31 years, Mimiaga dedicates his life to serving our country.
- **Amber Rodriguez** recently lost her mother Roxanne in August after she was diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer. Throughout three breast cancer diagnoses, Rodriguez never left her mother's side. She accepted a Komen Orange County award for "The Most Inspirational Breast Cancer Survivor" shortly after Roxanne lost her battle. She honors her mother's memory each day and is a proud Komen supporter.
- **Robin Pollok** was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 27 and was declared cancer free in 1991. Twenty-four years later, Robin is battling the disease again. Each year, Pollok sings the national anthem at Race for the Cure, reflects on her journey and shares words of encouragement for the women fighting alongside.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure by the numbers:

- The Race featured more than 13,000 registered participants.
- Of the registered participants, more than 1,000 were breast cancer survivors.
- There were more than 500 teams, the largest being [First American – Caring for Our Community](#), with more than 300 members.
- More than 1,700 volunteers from Orange County and all over the world helped at booths, water stations and on the course.

Breast cancer survivor Carla Cammack holds the title for top individual fundraiser, having raised \$21,039 to-date for this year's Race.

Komen Cures is the top fundraising team, with a current fundraising total of \$24,596.

In the first of two 5K races, Stewart Harwell was the top male finisher with a time of 16:00; Ieng Klukken was the top female finisher with a time of 20:13. In the second 5K, Chris Campbell won the men's race with a time of 18:44 and Sara Archery won the women's race with a time of 23:20. The top survivor finishers were Karin Wheeler in the first 5K with a time of 24:49 and Rosa Jaramillo in the second 5K with a time of 34:57.

Seventy-five percent of the funds raised through Komen Orange County are invested in local breast cancer awareness and education programs, breast self-examination classes, medical and diagnostic services for uninsured and underinsured women, and other community needs through grants to community breast health organizations. The remaining 25 percent is dedicated to the Komen Award and Research Grant Program to fund groundbreaking breast cancer research, and invest in future generations of breast cancer scientists and clinicians.

Since 1982, Susan G. Komen has invested more than \$889 million in research, making Komen the largest nonprofit funder of breast cancer research outside the U.S. government. In 2015, \$3,949,347 in new funding was awarded to [seven institutions in California](#), to provide researchers with critical funds to investigate breast cancer metastasis, triple negative disease and more.

**Local Presenting Sponsors** include The Allergan Foundation, Chevron, Knott's Berry Farm (Kids Fun Run Sponsor), *Orange County Register* (Founding Sponsor), Ralphs and Food 4 Less (Nutrition Sponsor).

**Platinum Sponsors** are ABC7 (Broadcast Sponsor), Fashion Island, Pacific Life Insurance Company (Home of the Race) and First American Title Insurance Company (Finish Line Sponsor). The **Diamond Sponsor** is 100.3



The Sound. **Gold Sponsors** are Blaze Pizza, C.H. Robinson, Lokai and Spa Gregorie's. **Silver Sponsors** include Chase and J.P. Morgan (Survivorship Sponsor), Cox Communications, Halyard Health, Macy's, Monarch HealthCare, Myriad (Team Tailgate Sponsor), Park Newport, St. Moritz & Barcelona Apartments and Rutan & Tucker, LLP.

**About Susan G. Komen®**

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than \$889 million in research and provided \$1.95 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](http://komen.org) or call 1-877 GO KOMEN. Connect with us on social at [ww5.komen.org/social](http://ww5.komen.org/social).

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