

## Curing cancer one step at a time

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Sunday morning is suppose to be a day of rest, but this weekend over 30,000 people decided that they would rather throw on their running shoes and help raise money and awareness for groundbreaking, breast cancer research.

Sunday marked the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Orange County Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure.

Fashion Island in Newport Beach was transformed into a 5k race-track. Streets were shut down and filled with thousands of people wearing every tone of pink imaginable, as far as the eye could see.

Participants piled up behind the starting line and at 7:30 a.m. sharp the foghorn blared and the racers were off. Many unique teams were among the school of people.

Some were wearing t-shirts displaying loving tributes, others were more comical, including one group who was holding up two giant, decorated, bras.

One such group was Phi Theta Kappa, one of Fullerton College's honor societies.

This was PTK's chapter President, Charles Hesketh's third time participating in the race.

"My mom had breast cancer a few years back, but she's been a survivor for over six years now," he stated with a smile.

His advice for those with a family member suffering from breast cancer was to lean on the ones who can support you, and that it helps to have good friends.

"It would be hell inside the house because everyone was stressed, so it would be good to go outside and do something," said Hesketh. "For me it was best to believe that whatever was going to happen, was going to happen, and to always have that hope and faith that she was going to be okay."

Phi Theta Kappa's main focus is giving back to the community.

They were in charge of Fullerton College's inaugural concert last semester and our actively involved with organizations like Paint Your Heart Out, an association that helps paint and restore houses for low-income, senior, and veteran homeowners.

"We want to show that PTK is not just about being on the honor roll or giving back through community service, it's also about the community we have on campus. We can bring matters that are emotional for us into our group and show members why they are important causes to fight for." said Serena Porter of Downey.



Margaux Brooke, Homet Reporter

The Start Line



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Fullerton College's Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society



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Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure



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Breast Cancer Survivor Tribute

The support for the cause was palpable throughout the entire event but was exceptionally prevalent during the Survivor Parade, where over 2000 breast cancers survivors, some of which were still in treatment, made their way through the crowds of supporters to take a seat in preparation for the tribute.

They were donning special pink "survivor" t-shirts and given pink roses to hold in honor of their battle.

Special guest Mehmet Oz, M.D. (Dr. Oz) showed his respect by participating in the race, as well as addressing the thousands of event attendees.

"It is great to be here today for the 20<sup>th</sup> Race for the Cure," said Dr. Oz.

"I am touched to be surrounded by these beautiful survivors. We must raise our voices in memory of the women we have lost to breast cancer and demand more funding for cancer research. Our work together is not over until we find the cure."

The tribute was then turned over to actual breast cancer survivor and past Susan G. Komen Orange County Race For The Cure board member, Lisa Dittmer.

"I had stage one cancer but any stage is a scary stage. I had a lumpectomy and a miserable time with radiation and chemotherapy as I watched my hair fall out. But because of early detection I am an 11 year survivor," she proudly stated.

Dittmer went on to explain how she was given a less than 3 percent chance of becoming pregnant. After marrying her husband they began the adoption process but to their surprise at the age of 42 she was pregnant and had their "little miracle", Jacob.

After that she was told she would probably never have children again but the doctors were wrong and four years later they had their second child, Luke.

"My cancer journey was not what I thought my life would be, but I would not trade it for another life," claimed Dittmer. "Because of early detection there is hope for your dreams, and hope for a good life even after a diagnosis of breast cancer."

The tribute ended with white doves being released and "I Won't Let Go" by the Rascal Flatts, sung by Robin Pollok, a 20-year breast cancer survivor.

Donations for the 2011 Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure stands at \$2.6 million.

Fundraising will continue throughout the month of October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month) where a goal of \$3.1 million is hoped to be reached.

Approximately 75 percent of the funds raised are put towards local breast cancer awareness and education programs, breast self-examination classes, and medical and diagnostic services for uninsured and underinsured women.

The remaining 25 percent is dedicated to the Komen Award and Research Grant Program to fund groundbreaking breast cancer research.



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#### The Finish Line



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#### Komen Youth



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#### A Supportive Husband



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#### Lynae Cook, Dr. Oz and Emily Quintana



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#### "We Support Healthy Hooters"



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Racers For The Cure



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Hoola-Hooper For The Cure



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Racers For The Cure



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Racers For The Cure



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Lisa Dittmer and Her Family



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Bananas Provided By Food4Less and Ralphps