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Komen founder Ambassador Nancy Brinker speaks to supporters and volunteers in Orange County

Newport Beach, Calif., June 10, 2009 – Ambassador Nancy Brinker, whose promise to her dying sister to fight to end breast cancer forever became the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization, spoke passionately to a roomful of volunteers, board members, breast cancer survivors and supporters of the [Susan G. Komen Orange County Affiliate](#) at the Marriott Newport Beach Hotel on Tuesday, June 9.

“I promised my sister I would fight for a cure for breast cancer if it took the rest of my life -- I just didn’t realize it would take the rest of my life, and what a journey it has been!” Brinker told the group. She noted that in 1982, the five-year survival rate for breast cancer patients was 74 percent. Today, the five-year survival rate has risen to 98 percent.

Brinker, who last visited Orange County a decade ago, commended the Affiliate for raising and providing \$800,000 for cutting-edge breast cancer research and for granting over \$1.3 million to Orange County organizations for breast health programs last year alone. Brinker praised the local Affiliate for raising more than \$20 million over the past 18 years and for putting those funds to work saving lives.

Brinker noted that the Orange County Race for the Cure, that will be held this year on September 27th in Newport Beach, is one of the top three Race for the Cure’s in the world and by far the largest in California. She urged supporters to continue to donate and raise revenues in this tough economy because the need for services is greater than ever.

“Whenever I talk about the very great Affiliates,” said Brinker, “Orange County always comes to mind. The gifts you have made are astonishing!”

Brinker also spoke about the intensely personal experience of watching her sister die of breast cancer, and the incredible strides that have been made in research and awareness today. “When my sister was diagnosed, people would cross the street away from her, thinking they could catch it,” she said. “Today, this would never happen. We’ve raised the dialogue in America.” Brinker also pointed out that no major advancement in breast health medicine or research has been made without the funding of Komen at some point along the way.

In closing, Brinker asked the group to “stay in the fight.” “We WILL eradicate this disease,” she said. “Keep up your good work!”



ABOUT SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE®

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Through events like the Komen Race for the Cure, nearly \$1 billion has been invested to fulfill that promise, making Komen for the Cure the world's largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to fighting breast cancer.

For more information on the Orange County Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, please visit www.komenoc.org or call 714-957-9157