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KOMEN ORANGE COUNTY AFFILIATE HONORS 2011 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

COSTA MESA, Calif., Nov. 11, 2011 – The [Orange County Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure](#) will honor volunteers and Race for the Cure team leaders on Nov. 16 at its annual Volunteer and Team Captain Appreciation Awards, held this year at Hanger 244 at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine. At the event, eight exceptional individuals, two groups of volunteers and several others throughout Orange County will be recognized for their hard work and dedication in helping the Komen Orange County Affiliate stay true to its promise to end breast cancer forever.

More than 200 people, including Race for the Cure team captains, volunteers and their families, are expected to gather in celebration and recognition of the countless hours of support the Affiliate received in 2011. Beyond the Race for the Cure, which raised \$3 million this year, volunteers also assist the Affiliate in a variety of functions, including serving on the annual Pink Tie Ball committees, providing administrative office support and helping with third-party events.

The Affiliate will also present its Race for the Cure Perpetual Trophy to the top fundraising team. This year, the trophy will go to “Team PIMCO” for raising more than \$100,000. Jay Jacobs, managing director, head of human resources was PIMCO’s 2011 team captain.

“We are grateful for the immeasurable support of the many volunteers who are the driving force behind Komen’s efforts to expand breast health services, initiatives and research in Orange County,” said Lisa Wolter, executive director of the Affiliate. “This year, we have made a tremendous impact in the fight against breast cancer and could not have done it without the dedication and generosity of the people in the community who support our mission to find a cure.”

Individual awards will be presented to the following:

- **Shining Star, Brenda Hardwig, Santa Ana:** Many people make the Race for the Cure a success, but in 2011, one individual stood out as a “shining star” for 20 years of committed service to Komen and the annual event. Hardwig, an employee at Pacific Life, has been the backbone of the company’s support team for the Race for the Cure, ensuring that the grounds, building and site are prepared for the event year after year. The Race has grown tremendously since its first year in 1992, but each challenge was met by Hardwig with consummate support, heart and passion for the cause.
- **Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, Vernelle Blackwell, Westminster:** As a four-year volunteer with Komen, Blackwell has demonstrated a level of commitment that serves as a testament to her passion for the cause. She is an advocate of regular breast exams and has volunteered with Komen in many capacities over the years. Blackwell has directed traffic, checked in volunteers and handed out roses to survivors at the annual Race for the Cure. She also supervised the Pink Tie Ball silent auction, assisted in the live auction and volunteers year-round to distribute flyers at health fairs.
- **Outstanding New Volunteers, Ellen Weinstein and Christine Brown, Newport Beach:** Weinstein and Brown are new volunteers to the Affiliate, but longtime Komen supporters. Brown began participating in the annual Race for the Cure 10 years ago after her sister-in-law lost her battle to



breast cancer; Weinstein, who is disabled, walked in her first Race four years ago using a cane, participating in her second and third years in a wheelchair. Since August 2011, the women have used their experience as business partners at accounting and tax service Brown & Co. to help the finance committee set up a new system for Komen merchandise sales – a system that has enabled the Affiliate to generate more proceeds that directly benefit the cause.

- **Outstanding Youth Volunteer, Shefali Dutt, Irvine:** As a sophomore at University High School, Dutt began volunteering with the Komen Orange County Affiliate to fulfill a community service requirement, but has shown a dedication and commitment to the cause that exceeds all expectations. Even after fulfilling the necessary hours, Dutt continued to volunteer with the Affiliate once a week in the afternoons and is an active member in the Pink Ribbon Club at her school. In addition to volunteering at the Komen front desk, Dutt also assisted at the Race for the Cure and regularly takes on projects benefitting the entire office.
- **Komen Warrior Award, Ginny Espenship, North Tustin:** Espenship, a breast cancer survivor and 20-year volunteer, has served in many capacities since the Affiliate was founded in 1992. Her past experience as board president, Race chair and member of several leadership committees has provided her with a unique knowledge of Komen and its mission to end breast cancer forever. Espenship's continued commitment is inspired by the idea of creating a world where her granddaughters will never have to face breast cancer.
- **Promise of One, Marie Cammack, Fountain Valley:** Cammack began her long history with Komen 13 years ago after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Each year, Cammack has continued to increase her involvement and commitment to the cause, and in 2011, led the leadership committee as Race chair for the 20th Annual Susan G. Komen Orange County Race for the Cure. Cammack also serves as a valuable member of the finance committee and has held numerous positions with the Affiliate over the years.
- **Promise of One, Rebecca Hultquist, Orange:** At age 33, Hultquist was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer and endured an aggressive chemotherapy regimen, surgery and radiation treatments. Six years later, she is now cancer free and devotes her time to volunteering with the Komen Orange County Affiliate to educate others about her breast cancer experience and encourage young women to be advocates for their own breast health. In addition to serving as the Survivor Pavilion Captain at this year's Race for the Cure, Hultquist shares her inspirational story year-round at Komen events, including the 2011 Pink Tie Ball. Hultquist's commitment is inspired by her desire to create a world without breast cancer for her three daughters.
- **Partner for the Cure, Experian, Costa Mesa:** Since 2001, Experian has been an avid supporter of breast cancer awareness, raising more than \$500,000 to provide 4,000 mammograms to women in need. Beyond fundraising efforts, Experian's Komen ambassadors have implemented creative programs and incentives to develop and grow fundraising for the Affiliate. Experian has also been a sponsor of the Race for the Cure KidsZone since 2008, and attends the Race each year with a team that exceeds 125 members in addition to providing volunteers for the KidsZone.
- **Outstanding Volunteer Group, Gap, Inc., Riverside:** After initially helping out at the 2011 Pink Tie Ball, the Gap volunteer group stepped up and committed to an even higher level of involvement. To support the 2011 Race for the Cure, the group staffed and oversaw merchandise sales at both the registration suite and on Race day. By selling and promoting merchandise, the Gap volunteers helped to ensure that the Komen vision of a world without breast cancer is prominent throughout the community.



“Volunteers are the heart of the Komen Orange County Affiliate and I continue to be inspired every day by their passion in the fight against breast cancer,” said Cindy Brenneman, director of volunteer services. “All of the outstanding individuals who volunteer their time are not only heroes to the organization but to the entire breast cancer community and survivors whose lives they impact.”

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 \$1.9 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.

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