

# MODERN LUXURY

## Lisa Wolter

Retired executive director,  
Susan G. Komen Orange County



### A REASON TO GIVE

"I believe in taking action, showing up and speaking out against inequities that hold people back from living a full and healthy life."

—LISA WOLTER

The absolute best decision of Lisa Wolter's life? Moving to O.C. 14 years ago to work for Susan G. Komen Orange County. "I enjoyed wonderful volunteers, the staff is smart and committed to the mission, and the breast cancer survivor community is strong and engaged," she says. Although the former executive director recently passed the torch to nonprofit vet Megan Klink, she remains committed to advocating for more cancer research and free mammograms to detect breast cancer early, while other charitable efforts include cooking and serving meals to the homeless as a member of Soroptimist International of Laguna Beach and acting as a board member for the Laguna Food Pantry. Here, Wolter discusses why she chooses to give back and more.

### GIVING BACK

"In my early career as a newspaper reporter, I interviewed people who were in terrible situations and learned about the incredible generosity of volunteers and nonprofit organizations helping address those problems. I was inspired by my women friends when we came together to create resources for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and, later, the emergence of the AIDS crisis. It opened my eyes to the difficulties many people face and the importance of having advocates to stand with them."

### TAKING ACTION

"My involvement in access

to breast health care grew out of the silence that surrounded breast cancer as recently as 35 years ago, when Susan G. Komen was founded. Polite society and families didn't talk about breast cancer when my grandmother and mother were diagnosed, and treatment options were very limited. Now, tens of thousands of women and men raise money and participate in Komen runs and walks wearing tutus or carrying signs saying, "Save the Tatas!"

### BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

"Recruiting 204 women to undergo a biopsy to donate their healthy breast tissue to be used for breast cancer research in 2015. Not only did we exceed the goal of 150 donors, but working inclusively with community partners, the majority of donors were from Asian and Pacific Islander populations that had never been represented in this type of research."

### FAVORITE CHARITY EVENT

"I love the fourth Sunday in September, when caring O.C. men, women and families come together to walk or run in Susan G. Komen's Race for the Cure/More Than Pink event. The massive outpouring of love, compassion and fundraising is amazing; I cry every time the opening ceremony concludes with the release of doves and we remember those we have lost to breast cancer and celebrate the survivors."