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**LOCAL BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS SHARE THEIR STORIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE  
9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUSAN G. KOMEN FLORIDA SUNCOAST RACE FOR THE CURE<sup>®</sup>**

**St. Petersburg, FL, Sept. 20, 2007** — Over a thousand breast cancer survivors will don their pink shirts and join 14,000 others to run, walk, and cheer along the sidelines at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Susan G. Komen Florida Suncoast Race for the Cure happening **Saturday, October 6** at **Vinoy Park** in St. Petersburg.

The 9<sup>th</sup> **Annual Komen Florida Suncoast Race for the Cure<sup>®</sup>** is expected to raise at least \$1 million for breast cancer research and community programs related to breast health.

Wendy Plant and Guada Lueck are among the more than 100,000 breast cancer survivors and activists in 125 cities around the world who make up Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the world's largest and most progressive grass roots network dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer.

Both will be available the day of the race for media interviews. To schedule an interview prior to race day, contact Laura Bianco, Alliance Communications, at 813-978-1992, ext. 227.

**Wendy's Story**

Tampa native Wendy Plant walks the Race every year with her 17-year-old daughter, Hayley. Wendy, 54, had a bilateral mastectomy after she was diagnosed with breast cancer in the fall of 1997. Both her mother and grandmother had breast cancer, which made Plant vigilant about getting an annual mammogram after she turned 40.

"My mother is 90 years old and had breast cancer twice. She taught me early on about the importance of regular breast exams," says Wendy, who works as director of marketing for a recycling company. "It was because of my regular mammogram that I caught my breast cancer early. It goes to show that regular mammograms do work. It saved my life."

When Wendy was diagnosed with breast cancer, it was her mom who motivated her to keep a positive attitude. She's been cancer free for nearly 10 years now.

**Guada's Story**

Guada Lueck, 53, was diagnosed with breast cancer in June 2006, not long after she moved to Tampa from Miami. She underwent a double mastectomy, along with two months of chemotherapy. Although she does not yet feel well enough to participate in the 5K race, Lueck said she will cheer from the sidelines.

"It's been a tough year and my energy level is not quite at 100 percent," says Lueck, a senior business development specialist for a Tampa engineering company. "This journey is not easy but you can't just stop and say, 'poor me.' You have to say, 'Okay, what can I do to get better?'"

Lueck, who often speaks to others about her experience, says it is important for survivors to share their stories and educate others about breast cancer, its detection, and treatment.

“When I was a kid, breast cancer wasn’t talked about at all,” she said. “Places like Susan G. Komen for the Cure have brought this issue out of the closet. It’s not some embarrassing thing. It’s a disease that we live with and is highly treatable.”

### **Honoring Our Breast Cancer Survivors**

Breast cancer survivors will be able to take advantage of special benefits on Race Day, including admission into the Survivor Tent where they can enjoy a complementary continental breakfast before the race, and receive a pink T-Shirt and cap provided by Zeta Tau Alpha and RE/Max. Breast cancer survivors can also walk in the Survivors parade and participate in the Survivor Celebration after the race

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Susan G. Komen Florida Suncoast Race for the Cure**

Saturday, October 6, 2007  
Vinoy Park, St. Petersburg  
6:00 AM – Late Registration Opens  
8:00 AM – Race Begins

Events: Competitive 5K Run, Non-competitive 5KWalk, 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk, Proud in the Crowd<sup>®</sup>, Sleep In for the Cure<sup>®</sup>, Kids for the Cure<sup>®</sup>

Entry fees are \$30 for adults, \$10 for children 10 years old and under. Fees increase to \$35 for adults on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Register online or locate a registration site near you at [www.komensuncoast.org](http://www.komensuncoast.org).

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### **About the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure**

The Florida Suncoast Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure—along with those who generously support us with their talent, time and resources—is working to better the lives of those facing breast cancer in our community. We join more than 100,000 breast cancer survivors and activists around the globe as part of the world’s largest and most progressive grassroots network fighting breast cancer. Through events like the Komen Florida Suncoast Race for the Cure, we have invested \$6 million in local breast health and breast cancer awareness projects in six Florida counties: Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota. Up to 75 percent of net proceeds generated by the Komen Florida Suncoast Affiliate are returned to the community while the remaining income goes to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Award and Research Grant Programs supporting research, awards and educational and scientific programs around the world. In 2007, the Florida Suncoast Affiliate awarded 20 grants for a total of nearly a million dollars to the community to support a variety of programs supporting breast cancer awareness, screening, and treatment. For more information visit, [www.komensuncoast.org](http://www.komensuncoast.org) or call 727-734-7832.