

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Andrea Rader  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure®  
972-701-2168  
[press@komen.org](mailto:press@komen.org)

### SUSAN G. KOMEN® HONORS MEMORY/CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL VOLUNTEER

#### *National breast cancer organization names Diane Montville Volunteer of the Year*



CLEVELAND, OH – Susan G. Komen® recently recognized the contributions of a local Ohio woman, Diane Montville, who passed away earlier this year, as the breast cancer organization’s national Volunteer of the Year. The selection was announced at the organization’s annual Leadership Conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

The annual award recognizes a person who has embraced the promise and core values of the Komen organization, acting as a positive agent of change throughout the course of his or her service.

Montville, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2000, was a four-time survivor and volunteer for more than a decade. She chaired the Komen Cleveland Race for the Cure® three times, as well as the inaugural Komen Akron Race for the Cure® in 2012. Her dedication to Race led to more than \$4 million being raised for Komen Northeast Ohio and helped elevate the organization to where it is today.

The Akron Race served as a defining moment for Diane. Beginning as a co-chair and mentor for the new race, she quickly stepped up to lead the event after her co-chair suddenly passed, telling others: “The Race represents hope to me. It’s a sisterhood because it brings all survivors together for the ceremony. You see all kind of survivors – from newly diagnosed bald women to women that have survived it for 15 years. That’s what I want to see, women that had been survivors for 15 or 20 years. I think that gives hope to the women who have been diagnosed that year: look at what is around you... you can survive this... it is possible.”

Montville also took it upon herself to take on other roles needed and positions when Komen Northeast Ohio was in need. She was a natural leader, who’s ability to ignite passion within a room full of people was truly unparalleled. She selflessly gave her time, energy, talent and resources to a cause which meant so much to her and set a shining example of how to live a life of service.

Diane consistently earned a high ranking on the local Affiliate’s Pink Honor Roll, and urged each member within her committees to make fundraising a priority. Her work within Komen went far beyond Race, however, as she participated in many other events such as the annual spring Pinktacular benefit. Many of the events she took part in became a family affair, with many of her relatives enlisting as volunteers.

“Diane’s legacy lives on in the hearts of many of us, and has inspired many former volunteers to reengage with Komen and join committees to honor her memory,” said Sean Shacklett, Executive Director of Komen Northeast Ohio.

When asked if there is one thing about Komen she would like to share with others she said, “You need to make your voice heard and you need to make sure you understand your health, your risk, the concerns, everything... You have to be positive, no matter what.”

### **ABOUT SUSAN G. KOMEN®**

Susan G. Komen is the world’s largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than \$800 million in research and provided more than \$1.7 billion in funding to screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs serving millions of people in more than 30 countries worldwide. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy’s life. Visit [komen.org](http://komen.org) or call 1-877 GO KOMEN. Connect with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/susankomen](http://www.facebook.com/susankomen) and Twitter @SusanGKomen.

### **ABOUT SUSAN G. KOMEN AND KOMEN NORTHEAST OHIO**

Susan G. Komen is the world’s largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy’s life. Komen Northeast Ohio is working to better the lives of those facing breast cancer in the local community. Through events like the Komen Akron Race for the Cure® and the Komen Cleveland Race for the Cure, Komen Northeast Ohio has invested nearly \$14 million in community breast health programs in 22 counties and has helped contribute to the more than \$800 million invested globally in research. For more information, call 216-292-2873 or visit [www.kommenneohio.org](http://www.kommenneohio.org).

###