



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Staff Raises \$25,000 for Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

400 District employees, family and friends participated in the 2009 Komen South Florida Race for the Cure[®]



West Palm Beach, FL – Just over six years ago, Kathie Morris, a finance manager at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), was diagnosed with breast cancer. To show support for Kathie, fellow co-worker and friend Claudia Kugler organized the first cancer support group among District employees, then dubbed “Kathie's Friends,” to participate in the 2003 Komen South Florida Race for the Cure[®]. Ironically, Claudia herself was diagnosed with breast cancer less than two months later.

The medical battles Kathie and Claudia fought inspired other District employees, family, friends and survivors to join the fight against breast cancer. The 55 District employees who participated in the 2003 walk raised more than \$1,100. For the 2009 Komen South Florida Race for the Cure, the SFWMD team numbered 400 members,

more than any other state or local government agency at the event. A series of fundraisers organized by District staff helped raise a total of \$25,000 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Komen Foundation has formally recognized the SFWMD for having the largest governmental team entry at the 2009 Komen South Florida Race for the Cure. This is the sixth consecutive year the agency has received the award.

“I am extremely proud that our staff approaches this fundraising effort with greater resolve every year,” said SFWMD Executive Director Carol Ann Wehle. “The amazing results, even in today’s economic climate, exemplify what genuinely caring people work for this agency and the citizens of South Florida.”

Since 2003, SFWMD employees have raised more than \$100,000 to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

“I remain truly grateful each year for the heartfelt commitment from my fellow co-workers proudly representing our 16-county region,” added Kathie. “Each year I participate in the District's fundraising events and the race, hoping in some small way to ‘pay it forward’ to others who may need help during their own experience with breast cancer. Once you are diagnosed with breast cancer, you find yourself a member of a club you would give anything NOT to be a member of. You also find new friends and a new way of looking at life.”

The 18th Annual Komen South Florida Race for the Cure was held January 31 along the Intracoastal Waterway in downtown West Palm Beach. It attracted more than 22,000 participants and raised more than \$1.7 million for the foundation. Of the money raised annually at the event, up to 75 percent stays in the area to fund valuable education, screening and treatment. The remaining 25 percent of the donations cover cutting-edge breast cancer research nationwide. The 5K run was first established in 1982 by Nancy G. Brinker after her sister, Susan G. Komen, died of breast cancer at the age of 36.

For more information on the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, visit www.komen.org.

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)
The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.