

HONORARY CHAIRS:

Senator Tom Coburn M.D. (OK)
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)
Senator Mary Landrieu (LA)
Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (MD)
Senator Mark Pryor (AR)
Senator Olympia Snowe (ME)
Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI)
Rep. Charles Boustany, Jr., M.D. (07- LA)
Rep. Dave Camp (04-MI)
Rep. Marcy Kaptur (09-OH)
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (18-FL)

cordially invite you to attend an

Evening Reception

in support of

Team Heather

in the

Susan G. Komen for the Cure **Global Race for the Cure**

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Van Scoyoc Associates

101 Constitution Avenue, NW • Suite 600 West • Washington, DC 20001

\$50 Regular Individual Admission • \$100* Special Individual Admission

**special admission automatically enters you in a drawing to win fun prizes like an iPad or
Diamond Seat National tickets*

Please R.S.V.P. by May 21st by contacting Stephanie Roehl at sroehl@vsadc.com

To donate to Team Heather and the 2010 Global Race for the Cure - <http://tiny.cc/TeamHeatherRace>

To learn more about Team Heather - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Team_Heather

To keep up with Team Heather - <http://ourteamheather.wordpress.com/>



Team Heather

Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure • June 5, 2010

www.globalraceforthecure.org - Team Heather

Team Heather Timeline

2001 - 1st Team Heather, in Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure, to support 25 year-old Heather Gardner

2002 - Team Heather returns to Washington, D.C.; Heather loses battle 4 months later

2003 - 1st National Race for the Cure Team Heather in Heather's absence (*Raised \$5,500*)

2004 - Set fundraising goal of \$10,000 (*Raised over \$17,500*)

2005 - Marked 5th Anniversary of Team Heather and set goal of \$20,000 (*Raised over \$27,500*)

2006 - Rep. Jim Kolbe (AZ), served as Honorary Team Chairman (*Raised over \$50,000*)

2007 - Team Heather Captain, Shawn Gardner, testified before US Sen. Appropriations Subcommittee on funding breast cancer research and awarded Komen National Co-Survivor of the Year Award (*Raised over \$51,000*)

2008 - Team Heather article appeared in Family Magazine and the team embraced social networking with Facebook group, "Team Heather: Fighting for a Breast Cancer Cure" (*Raised over \$38,500*)

2009 - US Senator Tom Coburn (OK) served as team's Honorary Team Chairman and team's online presence was expanded with Twitter @TeamHeather & ourteamheather.wordpress.com (*Raised over \$55,000*)

2010 - Team Heather celebrates 10th Anniversary and appears in Ambassador Nancy Brinker's book, "Promise Me" (*Raised over \$40,000 to date*)

I am often asked why Team Heather still participates in the Global Race for the Cure, seven years after my sister Heather's passing. My response is always the same, "How can we not participate?" How can we not do absolutely everything within our power to help find a cure for the disease that took the life of our Heather?

Team Heather has been involved in the Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure since 2001. It is a team formed in memory of Heather Gardner, a 26 year-old woman whose battle with breast cancer ended on September 29, 2002. To date, Team Heather has raised over \$275,000 for breast cancer research and treatment.

Heather Gardner was the youngest daughter in a family of five. Heather, the daughter of a breast cancer survivor, worked to improve the quality of life for those less fortunate. Much of her time was spent as a volunteer for underprivileged children and children with disabilities.

In 2001, newly engaged, Heather's right arm brushed against a lump as she rolled lazily in bed. After surgery to determine the lump's origin, Heather was diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer. Her family was told the lump was most certainly malignant, up to 10 years old, spidered out in all directions, spread into most surrounding lymph nodes, and would certainly take her life. Heather was 25 years old.

Even before the highly-advised TRAM flap procedure, Heather's initial reactions were to participate in the National Race for the Cure in Washington, D.C. Heather's belief was by participating in this powerful event, she could become "mentally prepared" for the fight ahead.

In June of 2001, dozens of friends and family traveled from Ohio to Washington, D.C. to take part in Team Heather's first National Race for the Cure. Together, they walked with thousands of other breast cancer survivors, co-survivors, volunteers, advocates, and supporters. The event had the intended effect, and Heather returned home to begin her rounds of surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and treatment mentally, emotionally, and physically prepared.

Through her 17 months of treatment, Heather spoke to groups on the importance of early detection and treatment. Her desire to inform and educate others on the dangers of breast cancer prompted her decision to go wigless and hatless throughout treatment.

In April, 2002, Heather married and the two began celebrating monthly wedding anniversaries. Life went back to "normal."

In June of 2002, Heather and Jason, along with an even larger number of family and friends, returned, once again, to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Race for the Cure. The following week, doctors discovered Heather's breast cancer had metastasized in the form of four brain tumors. Three-and-a-half months later, at 26 years old, Heather passed away.

So, again this year, we convene Team Heather in efforts to get one step closer to helping find a cure. Consider making a donation, today?

Why do we still participate in the Global Race for the Cure? We do so in order to give meaning to Heather's death. If we didn't continue Heather's battle in her absence, what would be her legacy? What would her life have meant? What would her death be for?

Why do we still participate in the Global Race for the Cure? We do so to help ensure the next 25 year-old woman, diagnosed with breast cancer, will have a much greater chance at becoming a survivor.

Why do we still participate in the Global Race for the Cure? We do so because when we think about fundraising to end breast cancer, we are reminded of a quote from Tom Hanks' character in, "A League of Their Own." "It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard is what makes it great." Finding a cure to breast cancer will be hard, but how great it will be! Please fight alongside us.



Team Heather

in the

Susan G. Komen for the Cure Global Race for the Cure

\$50 Regular Individual Admission • \$100* Special Individual Admission

**Special Admission automatically enters you in a drawing to win fun prizes like
Diamond seat tickets to a Nationals Game or an iPad*

Yes, I will support Team Heather's efforts with a contribution(s) of

- \$50 Regular Individual Admission
- \$100 Special Individual Admission
- \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

Susan G. Komen (ID #3968650 on the "Subject" line)

Please mail checks to:

101 Constitution Ave, NW

Suite 600W

Washington, DC 20001

Attn: Stephanie Roehl

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax Phone: _____

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