

The DSW “Sole Mate” Award was established at the 2005 Komen Detroit Race for the Cure® to recognize the important role played by co-survivors— the person or persons who stand by the patient with strength, support and love from diagnosis throughout the breast cancer journey. We thank all of the teams who submitted essays. The winning essay and the two finalists are reprinted below.

There are as many ways of being a co-survivor as there are people! Thoughtful gestures big and small mean so much to survivors, whether they’ve just been diagnosed or completed treatment years ago. If you are a Co-Survivor, on behalf of the Detroit Race and the Komen Foundation, thanks for the strength, love and support you show in ways big and small by being a co-survivor. For more information and resources, please visit:

http://www.komen.org/intradoc-cgi/idc.cgi_isapi.dll?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=1013

Winner of the 2005 DSW “Sole Mate” Award: Allison’s Army

Through his inexhaustible efforts and unconquerable spirit, Todd exemplifies the meaning of “co-survivor.” Since his wife Allison’s diagnosis with breast cancer four years ago, his support never faltered. From the beginning, he took charge of every aspect of her care-- scheduling appointments, consulting with physicians, ensuring Allison’s comfort, and keeping “Allison’s Army” updated on her condition. He was at her side during painful cancer treatments, giving her strength and support to continue her fight, even as she succumbed to the disease. His strength and commitment to his wife are undeniable and show the great love he has for her.

In memory of Allison. Born: July 31, 1971 -- Died: January 22, 2005

Survived by husband Todd, children Rodney and Makayla and many loving friends and family members.

