

Winner of 2006 Tourneau Co-Survivor Award

This 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 teams who submitted essays and encourage more to do so in 2007.

People often search for a satisfying purpose in life.



Graduating at the top of her nursing class, Khathee quickly found her life's purpose by serving others. She welcomed newborns in to the world and later gave loving and compassionate care to hospice patients making their final preparations. Her life, too, was cut short as she succumbed to breast cancer.

'The Race' reminds me of what can be survived through perseverance and compassion. I walk in remembrance of Khathee and silently thank her for her selfless love. Acts of compassionate service promote a spiritually rewarding experience, enabling survivors to find higher purpose through inspiring others through example.

Submitted by: Stay & Play for a Cure Team Co-Captain Kristin Tapley

Editor's Note: Khathee and Kristin shared typical experiences that young women who are good friends often go through. But, for such a young woman to be diagnosed with breast cancer (as Khathee was at 31), however, was not a typical experience. Kristin says that watching Khathee go through this and other challenges before she died "changed my life." Kristin's commitment to the Komen Detroit Race for the Cure® was inspired by her friend Khathee. Stay & Play plans to use the two Tourneau watches they won to raise funds for next year's Race.

We thank Tourneau for its generous support of this award. Visit the new Tourneau store at the Somerset Collection.

Co Survivor
strength - support - love

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. Those who stand by the side of a survivor provide support and benefit themselves in many ways—often by learning from the example of the person who has breast cancer.

The Komen Co-Survivor recognition program was rolled out in 2004 at Komen Race for the Cure® events and educational events around the country. Komen Foundation Affiliates in Denver, Colorado and Evansville, Indiana were the first to use the Komen Race for the Cure® as a public opportunity to recognize and thank co-survivors for lending their strength, support and love to survivors of breast cancer.

In recent years, the Komen Detroit Race for the Cure® has recognized co-survivorship in several ways:

- 2004 – 2006: Breast cancer survivors exchanged ribbons with their co-survivors on Race morning in the Survivor Café
- 2005 – 2006: Team Award for most inspiring Co-Survivor essay. 2005 winner: Allison's Army with award sponsored by DSW (Designer Shoe Warehouse). 2006 winner: Stay & Play for a Cure with award sponsored by Tourneau – world's largest watch store!
- 2006: "Children are Co-Survivors Too" at the Children's Area, sponsored by Visteon. Race-day display of poems and art by children.

Breast cancer is complex and baffling. It changes lives, relationships, goals and priorities. Information outlining what you might expect along the way is very important in traveling the breast cancer journey alongside a friend or loved one. To learn more, visit: http://www.komen.org/intradoc-cqj/idc_cqj_isapi.dll?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=1013

If you would like to help with our 2007 Komen Detroit Race Co-Survivor recognition efforts, please email us with your ideas and contact information at: racefortheure@karmanos.org. Please note "Co-Survivor Recognition" in the subject line of the email.