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SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE® CALLS ON GLOBAL CANCER LEADERS TO HELP AVERT JAPANESE CANCER CRISIS

Komen for the Cure to Convene Global Panel Addressing Future Cancer Risk from Nuclear Exposure

DALLAS – March 17, 2011 – Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, the world's leading breast cancer organization, today announced a call to global cancer leaders to help avert a cancer crisis in the wake of the nuclear disaster in Japan. Humanitarian assistance can take many forms, and the global cancer community has a vital role to play. Susan G. Komen for the Cure is urging that global cancer leaders start working together now to develop a cancer action plan for Japan. The plan would draw on lessons learned from past nuclear catastrophes at Chernobyl, Kyshtym and Three Mile Island.

Radiation exposure from these nuclear incidents has caused thousands of deaths by cancer. Health issues such as cataract development, cancer and birth defects are all related to the amount of exposure. In the five-year period immediately following the meltdown at Three Mile Island, the number of persons living within 10 miles of the nuclear site who were diagnosed with cancer rose 64 percent. Although it has been 25 years since Chernobyl, exposure to fallout may be responsible for thyroid cancers that are still occurring among people who lived in the region.

The global cancer community must act now to help Japan contend with a looming cancer crisis. Chernobyl produced the biggest group of cancers ever from a single incident, and the world may be facing a disaster of similar magnitude in Japan. Susan G. Komen for the Cure will therefore convene a panel of global experts to immediately begin addressing the future cancer risks generated from this accident and draft a plan of action.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure will also be asking their vast network of global friends and supporters to sign a petition at www.komen.org/japan calling for the release of all information regarding the incident and the potential effects of migrating radiation. As Japan works to contain the impact of the current crisis and provide for the immediate needs of its citizens, the organization urges the government to partner with the global cancer community to help protect the long term public health of people in Japan and around the world.

“It is imperative for the global cancer community to draft a plan of action for Japan to help plant workers, decontamination workers, and the residents of contaminated areas in every way possible, said Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker, founder and chief executive officer for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. “As someone who served on the National Cancer Advisory Board at the time of the Chernobyl disaster, I know the long-term implications of this type of nuclear tragedy. I encourage people to sign the petition and join in our efforts to help the people of Japan and those affected by radiation exposure.”

About Susan G. Komen for the Cure®

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Thanks to events like the Komen Race for the Cure® and Komen 3-Day for the Cure®, we have invested more than \$1.9 billion to fulfill our promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world. For more information about Susan G. Komen for the Cure, breast health or breast cancer, visit komen.org or call 1-877 GO KOMEN.

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