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## **KOMEN COLUMBUS PUTTING THE “MEN” IN KOMEN**

*Local men encouraged to volunteer time and muscle for annual Race on May 20, 2006*

(COLUMBUS, OH) – The Komen Columbus Race for the Cure is looking for a few good – and strong – volunteer men to help in its fight against breast cancer in 2006.

Starting today, individuals and businesses can register to join “Muscle Men for the Cure” – a group of men that will join nearly 900 female volunteers on the evening of Friday, May 19 and/or early morning on Race Day, Saturday, May 20. The group will assist in a number of manual labor jobs, including setting up tables, water stops and painting road stripes, among other things. Ten men are needed for Friday night and approximately 20 are needed for Race Day.

“Setting up for the Komen Columbus Race for the Cure is a monumental task and many of the women who work on this event are breast cancer survivors themselves and have physical limitations because of the disease,” said Alison Sestina, Komen Columbus Race chair. “We know men are huge supporters of this fight against breast cancer and they can be victims, too. We wanted to give them a more formal way to contribute to the Komen Columbus Race for the Cure and the overall experience.”

The affects of breast cancer stretch beyond women. Though the American Cancer Society predicts that men will account for just over 1 percent of the approximately 41,000 breast cancer-related deaths in America this year, each woman that will die this year is a loved one of a man – a friend, a sister, a mother or a wife.

Men can register to be “Muscle Men for the Cure” by calling the Komen Columbus office at 614.297.8155. Each man that registers will be given a “Muscle Men for the Cure” t-shirt and specific assignments.

Komen Columbus has raised more than \$7 million since it began in 1993 – 75 percent of that money stays in its 23-county service area and is used to conduct breast cancer education, screening and treatment programs. The other 25 percent goes to the Komen Foundation to fund national breast cancer research programs. More than 30,000 people are expected to participate in the **2006 Komen Columbus Race for the Cure® that will be held on Saturday, May 20 in downtown Columbus.** For more information and to register, please visit [www.komencolumbus.org](http://www.komencolumbus.org) or call the Komen Columbus office at (614) 297-8155.

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