

RACE FOR THE CURE, 2001

Laurie's Speech



Laurie was Chairwoman of Race for the Cure in 2001

Delighted I stood on the main stage facing 7021 participants on a sunny Saturday last May at the Komen Central NY Race for the Cure. Here was PPC as the Presenting Platinum Sponsor dominating the show of support amongst our community, PPC employees on the race committee, expertly planning the event since December, and finally the awarded Largest Team, as no one could escape our purple shirts. We outnumbered any other corporate, hospital, medical or school team. It is a wonderful blessing to come together in our spare time to volunteer together, to enjoy.

We raised almost \$350,000 that day, we had over 7000 participants and it was a stunning, blessed morning. Of each dollar raised, seventy-five cents goes directly back to the community for education, screening and treatment throughout 18 counties in Central New York.

Some of us were involved in the race organization, and so many of us were running and walking the Race on the PPC team, the largest overall representation by a company or sponsor. It was a heartfelt day with Presenting Sponsor PPC, our very own Liz Poda, Laurie Davis, Lisa Tarson, Gail Cawley, Sally O'Donnell, involved directly and expertly in the organization of the day, and many of you dressed in purple as the largest corporate team at the Race this year, walking and running to fight breast cancer.

Last October, I sat in front of my brother with a job proposal I couldn't turn down. I was about to take on a second full-time volunteer position as Race Chairman, Central NY Race for the Cure 2001. It would be, I explained, the most rewarding opportunity for me to put a very small dent in the disease, which claims me as a Survivor.

He inquired as to the scope of the job and resources, and I assured him we would barely need to utilize PPC employees, office supplies or budget assistance. Since Komen boasts a limitless volunteer pool, I was certain I could act on my own.

By December 1, I had a Race Committee. It was comprised of very well qualified people: Our fund-raising was handled by our Marketing Director, Liz; our Race Director was also working on implementing SAP implementation for PPC, our merchandise was handled by a sales-woman who has sold our inventory and logistics, organized by a warehouse Shipping and Receiving Manager for an entire division, and several other wonderful people all giving their volunteer time and energy!

Together with the help of Esther and Laurie Davis a team was brought forth and our momentum just skyrocketed. I was so grateful to see PPC as a sponsor. We met several nights after work and our teamwork was exemplary. It was wonderful to me to see the same people rushing about work during the day, to take their own time to organize the Race event.

Well, Liz Poda, Gail Cawley, Lisa Tarson, Laurie Davis and I want to thank you and commend you all for running this event as successfully as it ever has.

The Mezzalingua Family at Race for the Cure

