## Local survivor raises funds for cancer research

Ten years after being diag-nosed with breast cancer, sur-vivor Janet Newcomer of

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Farmington is dedicated to

raising money for a cure.
"I found out a couple years into it that fund raising was an option)," said Newcomer, a project manager at Minacs in

Farmington Hills who found a lump in her right breast just months after she married at

age 35.

"People were very supportive. They were very alert to the



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fact that I was a survivor."
Nearly a decade after two lumpectomies, one mastectomy, reconstructive trans-rectal abdominal muscle (TRAM) surgery and six months of chemulterapy, Newcomer is eclebrating her tenth year cancer-free and is seeking to help others.

Last Thesday, Race Fans for a Cure's special NASCAR stopped by the Minacs parking lot at 43415 W. Twelve Mile Rd., and this Saturday morriang, Newcomer walked 5K (about 3.5 miles) in her sixth Komen Race for the Cure. fact that I was a survivor.

Komen Race for the Cure.

A new fiberglass show car
with survivor-signed pink ribbon-striping arrived in a ribbon-clad trailer and was displayed from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on June 17. The idea was pre-sented to Newcomer by one o her Ford Credit clients, Judi

her Ford Credit clients, Judi Moritz.

For a donation, visitors got their picture taken with the car and received pink ribbon static clings, pins and self-exam cards. Also, donors were entered into a taffle for a limit-ed edition tin with two dis-east cars 1/32 the size of the origi-nal.

nal. "It was just amazing," said
Newcomer of the car and
event, which drew 100-150
people and raised more than
\$250. The money was divided
among the nine Minaes team
captains who led about 125
employees and family members in the 12th annual Race
for the Cure.

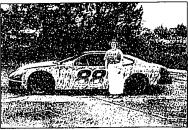
bers in the 12th annial Race for the Cure.

"Occrall we had a good num-ber of people come out even with the rain," said Nicole Bautel, another Minace project coordinator with relatives who have been affected by the can-er. It thought it was a really great idea.

Ford Credit legan its Race Against Breast Cancer, or "on-track performance program," in 1908. If NASCAR driver Dale Jarrett places in the top

In 1998, It MASCAR driver Dale Jarrett places in the top three or receives a pole posi-tion in a Winston Cup race, then 35,000 to \$10,000 is

then \$5,000 to \$10,000 is donated to Komen, according to Phil Gordon, Ford Credit Motor Sports Manager. "Right after that, calls (came) from fans wanting to know how they could make a donation," explained Gordon.



This special pink-ribboned NASCAR vehicle came to cancer survivor Jane Newcomer's workplace recently, to help generate funds for breast cance

Rewcomer's workplace recently, to nep research.

Race Fans for a Cure was formed in 2000 and since then, Ford Credit has sponsored the donation program. The show can, which was introduced this year, will wisit about 22 sites nationwide.

We take it around all these differents, execute where fans can make donations, 'said Gordon, adding that its final appearance in the area for the year will be at Ford Field on Thursday Aug. 14. 'She (Janet) was just so excited to have this thing going on. It was just such a great event.'

Since 1997, Newcomer has great event.'

Since 1997, Newcomer has been doing fund-raising footwork to raise money for the Race for the Cure and raise awareness about the importance of self-exams.

In 1993, Newcomer had raise awareness about the importance of self-exams. In 1993, Newcomer had raised to her family doeter the same September day that she felt the lump, Although she was initially assured it was probably a harmless cyst, and the control of the service of a cancer diagnostic the service of the service of the service of the control of the service of the service of the control of the service of the control of the service of the service of the control of the service of the servi

exams.
"Every indication was that it was nothing," said Newcomer, noting that the average woman waits six months after finding a lump before heading to the doctor – in which case it may

be too late. "I'm extremely grateful that I had aggressive doctors."
This Saturday, Newcomer was joined by her husband Les, daughter Elise and 40 cowork-eres and others on her walk in downtown Detroit.
"It's a joyous event, it really is," said Newcomer, who wore a pink hat and T-shirt along with the 1,000 other survivors who attended the race, which began at 9 a.m. "It brings home the fact that breast cancer touches so many people. It's just an awcsome thing when you see how many people care about it."

Mike Meldrum, co-chair of the Friends for the Cure donation division, noted that more than 21,000 were in attendance and about \$1 million was raised. Also, for the first time in the race's dozen years, the mayor of Detroit attended. "The race was the best ever this year," said Meldrum, whose wife is an 11-year survivor. "Everything went off smoothly. The weather was so kind for us." Since March, Newcomer has relied just about \$2,500, and

kind for us."

Since March, Newcomer has raised Just about \$2,500, and she doesn't plan on stopping until the cancer is eradicated, especially before Elise is old enough.

"No matter how small your doesn't appreciate the property of the court of the co

donation, every dollar counts, everything goes to good use," she said. "It's not a death sen-tence. We're getting closer."

