

CAPELIFE SUNDAY

Making strides

Cape Royal even raises \$12K-plus for breast cancer awareness

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Special to Fort Myers News-Press

USA TODAY NETWORK | FLORIDA



Jackie Cooper and Mary Mazzotti are on their way to finishing first and second on the walk.

While the incidence rate of invasive breast cancer has risen slightly over the last 15 years according to The American Cancer Society, the mortality rate has dropped the last 42 years, even though more than 42,000 women and men lost their lives last year. In addition, an estimated 268,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed among women and approximately 2,670 cases were diagnosed in men in 2019.

There are five things to know about Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Cape Royal:

- **90 participate:** Approximately 90 people took part in the event. That included 57 walkers, 17 volunteers and 16 who rode bicycles.

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When Carol Maurath and Cape Royal Community members first took part in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in 2008, they were so pleased to have raised \$1,000.

Now, 12 years later, the efforts of Maurath and 90 others who took part in this year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk and Bike event pushed their all-time fundraising to more than \$51,000.

Thanks to that participation, \$12,261.56 was raised during the Oct. 3 event at Cape Royal. "It was amazing," Maurath said. "Cape Royal is a very compassionate and giving community. There are so many people who care about the issue and so many have been touched by loved ones who have died, whether it's a sister or mother or grandmother."



Marie Hughes, Carol Maurath, Elaine Mitchell, Phyllis Mills, Vicki Fey, Dee Philippe and Jacquie Flenniken take part in this year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk and Bike event.



Cape Royal's original Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event took place in 2008 and raised \$1,000.

- **A 17-year survivor:** Marie Hughes has taken part in the walks every year since being diagnosed in December 2002 and having surgery in 2003. She said the first year she took part, she remembers, "It just hit me" when she signed a banner as a survivor. "I never liked the term survivor," Hughes said. "Even when I dealt with lymph nodes, I never thought of it as a death sentence or ordeal. But as years went on, I started analyzing and realized 'Survivor' was one of my favorite shows, and the reason I like it is that people think on their feet and are resourceful. Then I thought in a sense, my ordeal makes me that way. So I go and see the numbers and support and rally."

Even though she has been cancer-free for 17 years, Hughes admits she still gets anxious when she goes for a checkup. "It never goes away," she said.

- **Rock on:** The Ladies of Cape Royal painted 130 inspirational rocks in a tradition started two years ago by Bob Goldsmith. Top fundraisers included Lu Rokosz with \$1,888 and Phyllis Mills with \$1,136.
- **Fundraising Events:** Gail and Ron Marra donated and raffled off three gift baskets that brought in \$1,003. In addition, GGP/Troon, who through the 'Spread Your Wings' golf event, donated \$840.
- **Guest speaker:** Brittini Brown Cooper from the local American Cancer Society organization spoke on recent cancer statistics and how vital money raised is in helping with research grants, education, transportation for treatments and the 24/7 helpline. "Nobody should fight cancer alone," she said.