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“Women are the vanguard of the future, and sisterhood is stronger than anything!” – Wonder Woman. The New Original Wonder Woman (8113), (1975)

More than 1,100 walkers (roughly two-thirds of them from Pacific Palisades) turned up for the inaugural Jessica M. Berman Wonder Woman Walk for Breast Cancer on Sunday, Sept. 13 at the Palisades Recreation Center.

The Palisadian-Post is proud to be the media sponsor for the event, which raised more than $550,000 for the Jessica M. Berman Memorial Fund within Tower Cancer Research Foundation, which provides funding for important and innovative breast cancer research and patient support services.

“It’s pretty incredible all the people who are out here supporting Jessica, Tower (Cancer Research Foundation) and David,” Applegate said. She added that she was looking forward to spending the rest of the day with her son, saying, “Sunday is family fun-day.”

Before the walk kicked off, David Berman took the stage to address the swelling crowd in the heat and humidity.

“I can only imagine Jessica’s reaction to the love and support from the community,” David said, choking up. “Her legacy will indeed live on through the Wonder Woman Walk.”

David described how he and his wife Jessica threw herself into raising awareness and funds to fight breast cancer and support research to fight the deadly disease, even walking 26.2 miles in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Santa Barbara two weeks after completing radiation.

Jessica passed away on Aug. 24, 2014 at the age of 38.

“We wanted to do something to honor her legacy and also raise money for breast cancer,” David told the Post, adding that making the event family-friendly was important.

And with a Kids Zone that included a bounce house, face-painting and even a drum circle for the youngest participants, the Wonder Woman Walk had something for everybody.

Nearly every walker at the event had the name of a loved one written on their backs—a somber reminder that one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, according to Tower Cancer Research Fund. A team of 50 walkers (primarily Palisadians) sported visors with their team name, “Slove 2nd Base.”

“I was friends with Jessica and am on the Wonder Woman Walk Committee with David (Berman),” said Liz Rubin, team leader. “It’s really awesome to see this turnout. Very humbling.”

Eight-year-old Ingrid Knapp, in second grade at Palisades Charter Elementary School, wore a shiny Wonder Woman costume complete with red and blue streaks in her hair and a bouquet of pink balloons in her hand.

“We’re walking for my mom’s friend, Ingrid,” Knapp told the Post.

Special guest and renowned Christina Applegate, whose breast cancer diagnosis was announced in August 2008, was honored at the event alongside Dr. Philomena McAndrew from Tower Oncology.

Applegate told the Post that although she did not know Jessica personally, McAndrew treated them both.

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