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For more information: Jessica Manning
713-552-1055 or jessica@loveadv.com
Photos available: <ftp://216.215.93.26>
login: media password: lovepr

KOMEN HOUSTON RACE FOR THE CURE KICK'S OFF 2009 RACE SEASON *Honoring the Promise Bench Placed to Mark Race Route*

Houston, TX – Mayor Bill White and other honored guests helped kick off the start of the 2009 Komen Houston Race for the Cure® season with the placement of a Komen Honoring the Promise Collection Bench donated to the city by Encore Bank. The bench will permanently mark the route of Houston's largest footrace that will take place this year on October 3rd.

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Honoring the Promise Collection, by Kelly Gale Amen Design, allows people to dedicate a functional art piece to honor or commemorate those who have been touched by breast cancer. This particular bench was a donation from Encore Bank to the City of Houston and is placed in Eleanor Tinsley Park, off Allen Parkway near Downtown. The collection includes benches, planters, chairs, and tables, all tangible evidence to the fulfillment of the Komen promise to save lives and end breast cancer forever.

The Kick-Off Event served as an opportunity to energize and educate the community about the 19th annual Race and to encourage participants to join the fight by asking 10 friends for \$10 dollars to help the Houston Affiliate reach its \$3 million goal. In 2008, more than 30,000 participants took to the streets and raised \$3.8 million dollars that were used to serve thousands in the Houston Affiliates seven county service area helping to make Houston the #1 Affiliate in the world for money granted.

The Kick-Off event, concluded with a ribbon cutting featuring Mayor White, Russ Chase, Executive Vice President of Encore Bank, Kelly Gale Amen, Honoring the Promise Designer, Dr. Adriana Higgins, Ed. D. Executive Director of the Komen Houston Affiliate, Eileen Campbell, Komen Houston Board President, Joe Turner, Director of Parks Department and 2009 Race Chairs Kathy Nicholson and Bob Mease.

"There are thousands of individuals and families that are served by Houston Affiliate grants which makes it so important to once again break fundraising records at the 2009 Houston Race for the Cure," said Dr. Adriana Higgins, Ed. D. Executive Director of the Komen Houston Affiliate. "Without these dollars, we are unable to provide the screening, treatment and education that are desperately needed by so many in our area."

For more information about the Houston Affiliate of Susan G Komen for the Cure®, breast health or breast cancer, visit www.komen-houston.org or call 713-783-9188.

Houston Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®

The Komen Houston Affiliate was established in 1991 and is committed to saving lives and ending breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality of care for all and energizing science to find the cures. Seventy-five percent of funds raised locally stay in the Komen Houston Affiliate's seven county service area to fund breast cancer education, screening and treatment for uninsured and medically under served. Twenty-five percent of funds raised support the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Grants Program. To date, the Komen Houston Affiliate has funded projects totaling over \$15.8 million in the Greater Houston area and has contributed \$5.3 million to breast cancer research.

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