

## Komen Kids for The Cure – the race is on

**ARLENE FINE**

Staff Reporter

**Q.** What's better than breakfast in bed on Mother's Day, May 14?

**A.** Rallying the troops and heading over to Legacy Village for the third annual "Komen Kids for The Cure" one-mile walk/run.

This yearly fundraiser to fight breast cancer is the brainchild of Hunting Valley resident Josh Berns, 14.

"Life has been good to me, and I realized that it was time to help others," explains the Hawken Middle School student. "Too many of my friends' parents and my own relatives have had cancer. With one out of every eight women affected by breast cancer, I decided that would be a good cause to work for."

The invaluable assistance of his family – his father, real estate developer Jonathan Berns; his mother, dentist Patti Berns; and younger sisters Dani and Abby – and an army of friends and relatives, turned Josh's dream into a reality.

The first year's race in 2004 drew 1,000 runners and netted nearly \$22,000. Flush with their success, Team Berns and company did it again. The 2005 race

cancer," says Josh. "Yet because of the run, we talk about it a lot. It has opened a dialogue about health issues and our bodies, and that is a very healthy thing. Unfortunately, no family is immune from cancer."

The generosity of the community has been most gratifying, agree the Berns family. Many of Jonathan's business associates have given large sums of money, often anonymously. The fact that the event is at Legacy Village rather than at LaPl ce, which is owned and managed by Berns, is

raised a whopping \$60,000. This year, because of an outpouring of corporate and civic support, the Bernses hope to almost double that number.

"This run is the best Mother's Day gift to receive from my loving and caring children and for other children to give their own moms, grandmoms, aunts and all the women they love," says Patti. "It represents a gift of life to us all."

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**"This run is a gift of life to us all."**

**Patti Berns**

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In an ironic twist of fate, Patti, 44, was diagnosed with breast cancer soon after last year's race. The 2006 run/walk will be a celebration of her recovery.

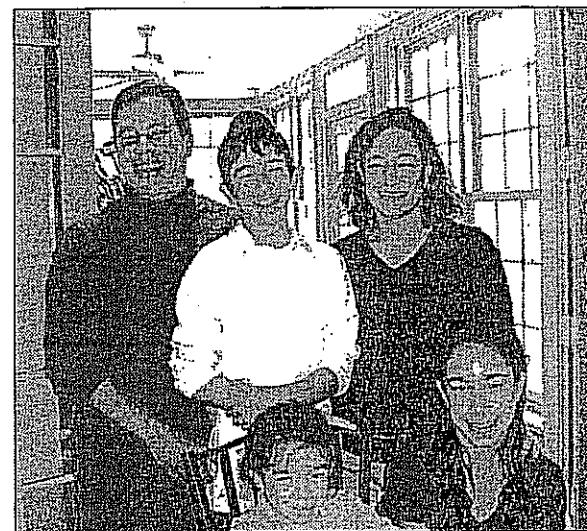
"An important message of this year's run is for women to be vigilant about their health and have yearly mammograms," says Patti. "I am a survivor because of early detection. My cancer was discovered on a routine

mammogram. If this run convinces just one woman who does not currently know she has breast cancer to get a mammogram, then it will be an unconditional success, no matter how much money we raise."

The significance of spending the morning with husbands of breast cancer survivors is important to Patti's husband Jonathan. "We have been living

also significant.

"Even though Legacy and LaPl ce often compete for the same tenants, when it comes to battling breast cancer, we are on the same team," says Jonathan. "Legacy is a terrific venue for the walk/race, and many of the tenants are donating goods and services to the race participants. We all want to fight this together and find a cure. Just as we learned, you never know who will be affected by



Planning this year's walk/run are, clockwise from left, Jonathan, Josh, Patti, Dani and Abby Berns.

through this experience with our wives, and it is so comforting to see women who have come through it and are living healthy, vital lives again," he says. "Bringing these families together on Mother's Day will be uplifting for us all."

"Kids our age usually don't talk about breast

breast cancer next."

*Registration on May 14 at 8:15 a.m.; the run/walk at 9. Cost includes a T-shirt and refreshments and benefits the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Northeast Ohio Affiliate. Children's Fun Tent activities will include face-painting and make-your-own Mother's Day cards. 216-791-2873 or register at [www.komen/neoio.org](http://www.komen/neoio.org).*

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