

# THANK YOU, THIS IS AN AMAZING PLACE TO WORK

## Laurie's Speech at the Komen Luncheon, 2003

I am proud to be a part of a network of volunteers who are fueled by the mission to eradicate cancer and who are willing to sacrifice their egos, their modesty and their time to benefit women they may never meet.

Komen has enriched my life and I thank you for giving me such a precious opportunity, I learned how to get my hands dirty, how to inspire without dangling a paycheck, how to share my story of survivorship, and why I should share it every chance I get.

And as for the wrenching changes, the taming of egos, all the risks along the way, the rules that were broken on behalf of "fighting breast cancer", these are moments I will

remember in brilliant color. It has been worth every minute of my time. Thank you for this honor.

I want to leave you with a small thought, not on behalf of the board of directors of the affiliate, but as a breast cancer survivor for 6 years.

We are growing by leaps and bounds every day. Instead of seeing each other at parties, restaurants, and Wegmans produce, it's now in imaging centers, hospitals, and support groups. The incidence of breast cancer is eerily rising. And we are so fearful.

This disease comes in with a whisper, and leaves you with a deafening howl.

There exists a cowering grip upon all of us women who struggle with this battle. I am fortunate to have resources to fight the disease according to my will. Most women do not have that opportunity. We do what we do, today and every day, to reach those women.

There is no cure for breast cancer. It takes a lot of money to fight this disease and enormous passion to volunteer. Thanks to all of you, for helping us to realize another year for our foundation in this community, and for your generous dollars.

The benefit of our experience as survivors is a gift of life, and we are careless if not reckless if we don't utilize it each and every day.

