

Nancy G. Brinker

Founder, Susan G. Komen®



Nancy G. Brinker is regarded as the leader of the global breast cancer movement. Her journey began with a simple promise to her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would do everything possible to end the shame, pain, fear and hopelessness caused by this disease. In one generation, the organization that bears Susan's name has changed the world.

In 1982, shortly after Susan's death from breast cancer at the age of 36, Brinker founded Susan G. Komen® in Susan's name. Brinker faced an immediate uphill battle: newspapers balked at printing the words "breast cancer," no one talked openly about the disease, there were no 800-numbers, no internet and few, if any, support groups. Few treatment options existed for breast cancer patients and limited resources were committed to the disease. In a matter of years, Brinker broke the silence around breast cancer, and Susan G. Komen is now the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Today, the organization has invested more than \$2.6 billion in breast cancer research,

education, screening and treatment.

Her creativity in raising awareness led to programs that at the time were revolutionary: In 1983, she founded the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® series, which is now the world's largest and most successful education and fundraising event for breast cancer. She also pioneered cause-related marketing, allowing millions to participate in the fight against breast cancer through businesses that share Komen's commitment to end the disease forever. Komen's unwavering advocacy for breast cancer survivors led to new legislation and greater government research funding. Major advances in breast cancer research have been touched by hundreds of millions of dollars in Komen funding.

Brinker's determination to create a world without breast cancer is matched by her passion for enlisting every segment of society – from leaders to citizens – to participate in the battle. In 2009, President Barack Obama honored her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for this work.

In 2010, Brinker released her *New York Times* best-selling memoir "Promise Me," an inspirational story of her transformation from bereaved sister to leader of the ongoing international movement to end breast cancer. She was named one of *TIME* magazine's "100 Most Influential People" in 2008. From 2001-2003, she served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary and served as U.S. Chief of Protocol from 2007-2009. In 2008, President George W. Bush appointed her to The Kennedy Center Board of Trustees.

Brinker served as Goodwill Ambassador for Cancer Control for the United Nations' World Health Organization, where she continued her mission to put cancer control at the top of the world health agenda. Brinker is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She has received numerous accolades for her global work, including the prestigious Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service, the Trumpet Foundation's President's Award, the Independent Women's Forum Barbara K. Olson Woman of Valor Award, the Champions of Excellence Award presented by the Centers for Disease Control, the Porter Prize presented by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, the Forbes Trailblazer Award, Ladies Home Journal's "100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century," Cynopsis Women in Sports Impact Award, Biography Magazine's "25 Most Powerful Women in America," and honorary degrees from Duke University, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Michigan State University, Boston University, and Southern Methodist University. She was named one of the 100 Most Trusted People in America by *Reader's Digest* in 2013.