

Sarah's Soldiers Raise Funds To Fight Breast Cancer

By Kimberly Laro
For the Beacon

This year I am participating in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. My team is called Sarah's Soldiers in honor of Sarah Dodge Raney and her mom, Donna Dodge. I grew up with Sarah. She graduated from Merrimack Valley High in 1989 and lost her battle with cancer in 1998 at the age of 26, leaving a husband and a young son. Six years later, in 2004, Donna lost her own battle at the age of 62.

Making Strides is a five to six mile walk that honors those we've lost to breast cancer and celebrates those who have survived. It also raises money to support the American Cancer Society's research efforts, early detection programs, services that make life easier for breast cancer patients, and advocacy initiatives dedicated to ridding our country of disparities in health care.

Making Strides walks take place in more than 100 cities across the country. They have no fundraising minimum, which means that more people can participate. They are also noncompetitive, meaning that all are welcome to walk as much or little as they are able to. Women in treatment often take part.

This year's walk in our area will take place at 1 PM on October 15 at Memorial Field on South Fruit Street in Concord. Please join our team or make a donation in memory of someone you love, or to honor a cancer survivor, or if you are lucky enough to have never lost anyone you love to cancer. Hope starts here.

To join our team or make a donation, please contact Kimberly Laro at SarahsSoldiers@adelphia.net or 735-5698. Each participant who submits their registration form and fee by September



Sarah Dodge Raney and Donna Dodge
Photo: Cydney Dodge

15 and then raises a minimum of \$60 (including your \$10 registration fee) will receive a Sarah's Soldiers Making Strides t-shirt.

Why I Walk

I close my eyes and see two beautiful women – Sarah and Donna. Sarah as a young girl, her mom, Donna, in a bathing suit at one of the many pool parties the family hosted. Sarah, a blue bandana tied around her bald head and big hoop earrings with a smile almost as big as the earrings. Donna, in a business suit, smiling and telling me that you haven't had a bad day until you put a run in your nylons and you can't find your artificial breast.

In some of the images I see, Sarah and Donna were battling breast cancer, but they were always smiling. They were courageous and strong. We can all learn a lot from the way these two beautiful people lived their lives. As long as we remember Sarah and Donna, their spirit will live on in our hearts.

Please join us in our fight against breast cancer. We are soldiers, we are Sarah's soldiers.

Ladakh from page 23

By the late 1980s, the situation had reached a point that stirred the hearts and minds of a small group of students and turned them into activists. During our time there, we learned the incredible story of their work, which created SECMOL, and of its principle founder, Sonam Wangchuk.

In a decade and a half, Wangchuk and SECMOL have written new, culturally-appropriate textbooks in Ladakhi, trained thousands of teachers, formed hundreds of Village Education Committees, published Ladakh's first

and only magazine, built a solar-powered campus, formed an Eco-Friendly design/build company, and, in the process, raised the passing rate on the 10th class exam from 5% to 50%.

Join me in the Norris Family Theater at Proctor Academy on September 18 at 8 PM for more about a remarkable place, a remarkable man, and a remarkable organization.

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