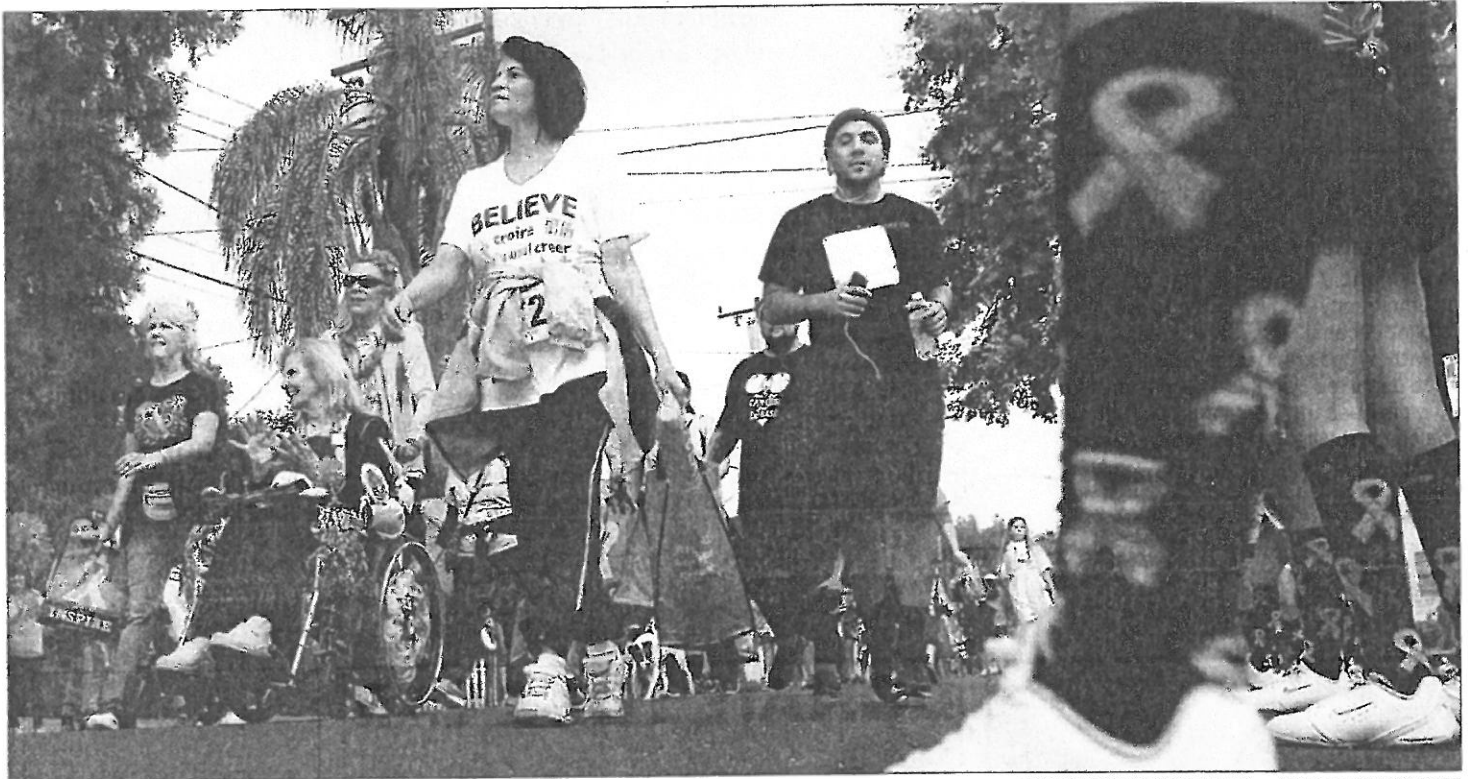




COMMUNITY



JENNIFER CAPPUCCIO MAHER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Participants make their way through 5K and 10K courses Sunday in Redlands during the eighth annual Believe Walk.

Walk draws thousands

Even the threat of rain didn't dampen mood at Believe Walk

By Kristina Hernandez
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REDLANDS » Umbrellas were the accessory at this year's Believe Walk.

But the threat of rain did not dampen the spirits of thousands who filled downtown Sunday all in the name of fighting cancer.

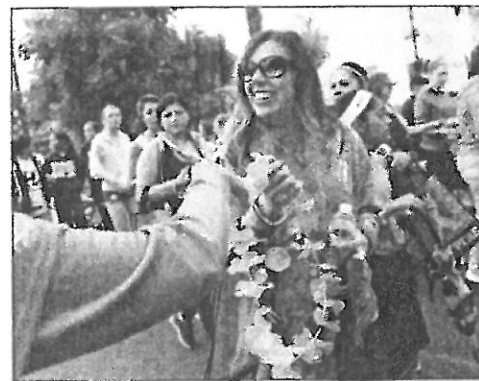
Stories of those lost and sur-

vivors were heard as participants made their way through marked 5K and 10K courses lined with school groups and organizations cheering walkers and runners on.

There, survivors like Esmeralda Calderon of San Bernardino and Susana Arias of Fontana were treated like rock stars as they were invited to walk the pink carpet and pose for a quick photo shoot.

Both women are best friends and co-workers at the Colton Joint Unified School District. But most importantly, they are

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Cindy Anjaria of Corona receives a lei in memory of her grandmother during the eighth annual Believe Walk in downtown Redlands on Sunday.

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+ **Online:** More photos from the eighth annual Believe Walk in Redlands [HTTP://BIT.LY/1FQCT1Q](http://bit.ly/1FQCT1Q)



JENNIFER CAPPUCCIO MAHER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Participants walk past a banner listing names of cancer patients and survivors during the eighth annual Believe Walk in downtown Redlands on Sunday.

Walk

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breast cancer survivors.

"Our story is the same and (our cancer was in) the same boob," Arias said.

Added Calderon, "We're friends who encourage each other. And as we hit those moments in our fight, we inspire each other and know that we are not alone. This is our second year participating. We came last year and we decided that every year this is going to be one of our things to do."

Vickie Johnson, a Redlands Unified School District bus driver from Loma Linda, is a 9-year breast cancer survivor

who brought her grandson, Wade Forde II, 7, along to participate in the walk. In addition to walking the course, they had another task on their "to-do list" — get the crowd pumped up for the occasion.

"This is something I have always done," she said. "It's overwhelming to see people still come out despite the rain."

The annual event — in its eighth year — was founded by Inland Women Fighting Cancer and Stater Bros. Charities. It raises funds for cancer-related centers dedicated to the care of local men and women fighting the disease. Past recipients of proceeds include the Loma Linda University Cancer Center, St. Bernar-

dine Medical Center in San Bernardino and, most recently, Redlands Community Hospital's Women's Health Imaging Center.

Since its inception, the walk has raised more than \$2.5 million.

A final tally for this year's walk was not immediately available. However, more than \$354,000 was raised from online registration, which closed Wednesday. Those unable to make it to downtown Sunday can still donate by texting CARE to 80077. A \$10 donation will go to the purchase of chemo beanies for cancer patient. The goal is to bring in \$10,000 to the effort.

To learn more about the walk, go to believeinlandempire.com.