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Breast cancer & circles of love

Charlotte's CircleUp, Healing Dragons work to provide fellowship, remembrance, health, awareness

by Matt Comer matt@goqnotes.com



The CircleUp Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure team in 2008. Photo Credit: Karen Mosteller

Karen Mosteller does not have breast cancer. In fact, she never has. But, it's a different story for many of her close friends.

"We were younger then," Mosteller says, recounting memories of two friends diagnosed with breast cancer just weeks apart over a decade ago. "We were all taken aback. They were both healthy and exercised and did all the right things. They ate well, they took walks — all the things you were supposed to be doing."

Mosteller and others gathered around their two dear friends to provide comfort, support and love.

"We felt like if we 'circled up,' we somehow could have some power in this situation; I think that's probably what was in our hearts," she says. "If we circle

up then we can together either defeat it or hang on. I think it was a way for us to certainly be able to do something to have some kind of power in what seemed like a powerless situation."

Much has changed in the years since her friends' breast cancer diagnoses. In 2009, one lost her battle with the disease. "Circle Up," the informal support group Mosteller and others formed, has blossomed into a fundraising powerhouse for Charlotte's local Susan G. Komen Foundation's Race for the Cure. On Oct. 1, the group participated in the event for the 13th time.

"There's at least 10 or 12 survivors who are a part of Circle Up," Mosteller says.

see **Support** on 16

School board candidates are strong advocates

Darrin Rankin, Lloyd Scher clear, consistent voices for inclusion

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CHARLOTTE — Voters head to the polls on Nov. 8 to elect a new city council and at-large school board members. Two school board candidates stand out as strong allies and advocates.

Lloyd Scher served for eight years on the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners. That experience, he says, makes him an ideal candidate for the board of education.

"Having served on the county commission and having done eight years of budgeting, I understand what it takes," Scher told *qnotes*. "I understand what changes we really need to do to make the process better."

Scher's service on the county commission coincided with one of the area's most high-profile

see **Candidates** on 6

