

# National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Kicks Off

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Reported by Becky Freemal, 9News



with the Newport firefighter's football organization.

Two years ago she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"It's really given her the strength, the energy and the will to keep going," said Mike Alford, whose mother is fighting cancer, "and to give her something to strive for."

Becky's cancer has spread, but on Sunday, that was not the focus.

Wearing pink, exercise and a dedication were all part of this first day of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

This first day of National Breast Cancer Awareness month was emotional, and full of dedication.

It involved people closely touched by breast cancer, and those who simply want to help people they've never even met.

And just within the first 24 hours, already people are making a difference.

With music thumping and wheels spinning a group of exercise buffs sweated for two hours to "Spin for the Cure."

"This year, three of my girlfriends had breast cancer and they are all three survivors," said Vickie Magliano, who organized "Spin for the Cure."

"I do spin a lot as exercise, for myself, but my mother actually fought breast cancer and she is five years clean, this month," Ben Dunlap, another "spinner," told 9News.

As they raised money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in Anderson Township, football players and cheerleaders across the river in Newport honored Becky Alford, who is still fighting the disease.

For 39 years, the woman known for the best chili dogs around, has volunteered

As Newport's mayor made it clear this first day of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the spotlight was on a very special woman.

"We celebrate her life today. Now therefore, I, Thomas Guidugli, Mayor of Newport, do verify Sunday, October 1 is 'Becky Alford Day' in the City of Newport."

"I really feel like a 'Thank you,' would've done it," said Alford.

While surprised by all the effort put into thanking her, everyone who's ever met Becky Alford says it's truly hat's off to her.

"I feel really special by them doing this," said Alford. "I really feel special."

So, whether exercise is your choice or simply honoring someone you love, now begins a month-long quest to raise awareness, and it's gotten off to a strong start.

There are several events going on throughout the month, including more spinning sessions at Fitworks.

The next one will be held at the Norwood location next Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon.

"Passionately Pink for the Cure" also kicked off on Sunday.

Companies, school groups and even your



local gardening club can participate.

Everyone is asked to donate at least \$5 to the Komen Foundation and to wear pink through the month of October.

And throughout the month of October, you can also find bagels in the shape of pink ribbons at Panera bread stores.

The bagels also feature cherry chips and real bits of Bing cherries.

A portion of the proceeds from each "pink ribbon" bagel sold will go to the American Cancer Society of Southwest Ohio.