

Doctor, others give loving, long-lasting gift to mothers

By Stephanie Bertholdo
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The 18th annual EIF Revlon Cancer Run/Walk could be the most loving Mother's Day gift of all. The event, which takes place Sat., May 7 at the Los Angeles Coliseum, raises funds for breast and ovarian cancer research.

Agoura Hills resident and Woodland Hills doctor Ian Taras is a longtime supporter of the event, which he said is always the Saturday before Mother's Day.

People participate in the Revlon walk for many reasons. Sometimes a personal battle with cancer will make it clear that more cancer research and education are needed. More often, families walk in memory of a beloved family member or friend who waged war against cancer and lost, or to support people who are continuing to fight the disease.

Sometimes people walk for themselves. After all, everybody at one point or another is touched by cancer, and it takes ongoing funding to conduct research, provide education and eventually find cures for ovarian and breast cancer.

For a decade Taras has formed a team for the Revlon Walk. To date, he and his group of warriors against cancer have raised more than \$350,000 for the cause.

Dr. Glenn Cohen, a hand surgeon in Westlake Village, is co-

sponsoring Team Taras. Last year team members raised \$50,000 during the Revlon walk.

Taras and his family members have been affected by cancer for years. He said in an email that 2006 was a "particularly difficult year in the 'cancer' department for the Taras tribe." His sister Lorelle was tested and discovered she carried the BrCa gene, which indicated she would develop cancer. At 36, she underwent a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery, and at 39 she had her ovaries removed.

Because of her genetic make-up, Lorelle's chance of getting

breast cancer was 85 percent and ovarian cancer was 55 percent. With medical breakthroughs in gene identification, proactive surgeries reduced Lorelle's chances of developing cancer to "almost nil," Taras said.

Taras' father was also diagnosed with cancer in 2006. His colorectal cancer was treated with chemotherapy, radiation and four surgeries. Taras said his dad is "on the mend." Taras' mother battled breast cancer in 1990 and is "alive and well," he said.

"I, too, found out in 2006 I have the gene and will be walking selfishly for myself and my

daughter," Taras said.

He said that 100 percent of the money raised in the walk goes toward cancer research. No funds are used for operating expenses.

To join Team Taras, visit <http://do.eifoundation.org/goto/iantaras>, and click to the link, "Join Taras Team." Donations can be made to the team by linking to "Support Ian."

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Fabio to preside over arts fundraiser

The Angels of the Alliance for the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza will host a new Sunday Table Decorating Brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun., May 15 at the Hyatt Westlake Plaza, 880 S. Westlake Blvd., Westlake Village.

The master of ceremonies for the event will be Fabio Viviani from the "Top Chef" TV show and owner of Café Firenze Restaurant in Moorpark and Firenze Osteria in Toluca Lake.

Guests will be seated at decorated tables during a brunch with carved meats, seafood, salads, chef's egg and pasta stations, blintzes, berries and desserts.

The event will also have more than 20 boutiques, live auction, raffle baskets and silent auction.

All of the proceeds from this event will be used to fund art grants and to provide tickets and transportation for underserved children from community schools to experience live theatre performances at the Civic Arts Plaza.

Reservations are \$125 and elegant garden attire is requested. For reservations, call Wendy Harper at (805) 479-6831 or email WendyatAngels@aol.com.

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