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STEP SISTERS OBSERVE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Non-profit marks five years supporting local breast cancer patients

ASHBURN, Virginia (February 5, 2019) - The Step Sisters are pleased to announce their fifth anniversary providing support to local breast cancer patients.

In 2014, The Step Sisters, who had been active in the breast cancer cause for years, reorganized, formally became a non-profit and shifted their mission to directly support area patients. This was done after realizing the lack of basic, yet vital support for patients - a ride to treatment, childcare for little ones or a delivery of healthy food. These items help reduce stress and strain for a patient, but they also ensure that she stays in treatment.

“We never want a situation where a patient has had to cancel an appointment because she couldn’t find childcare, or didn’t have a ride,” say Ashley Campolattaro and Angela Fuentes, founders and Co-Executive Directors of The Step Sisters.

Five years ago, The Step Sisters started out providing three support services at Inova Loudoun Hospital. The group has grown cautiously, ensuring that patient care never suffers and today, the group serves patients at six medical facilities in Loudoun and Fairfax Counties. They have expanded their number of support services to 9 including two key projects – the Crisis Fund and the Chemotherapy Care Bag.

Founders Campolattaro and Fuentes explain, “As we’ve grown, we’ve unfortunately seen that some women are facing severe financial difficulties at time of diagnosis. They have to make the agonizing choice between paying rent, and paying for their co-pays or medication.” The Crisis Fund was introduced in 2017 and is designed to help pay rent/mortgage, utilities and food. To date, this fund has provided over \$25,000 to patients in crisis situations.

Other services include transportation, fresh food delivery, childcare, house cleaning, lawn services/snow removal, pet care, gift cards and Chemotherapy Care bags - designed to be given to area breast cancer patients as they begin the chemo process. Approximately 800 bags have been distributed to patients so far.

While the anniversary is an important milestone, according to Campolattaro, “We have no plans to formally observe the anniversary. Instead, we are busy preparing for our largest annual fundraiser – the Step Sisters’ Ribbon Run/Walk which takes place on April 27.” Individuals and companies interested in the event and the organization can learn more at www.stepsisters.org/ribbon-run.

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ABOUT THE STEP SISTERS

The Step Sisters work to improve the quality of life for those impacted by breast cancer. Partnering with local hospitals, the group funds needed support services that directly benefit patients in Northern Virginia.

A 501c3 non-profit organization, the Step Sisters hold several fundraising events with their largest, the Ribbon Run attracting nearly 2,000 participants to Brambleton annually.

For more information about the Step Sisters, please visit www.stepsisters.org.

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CONTACT:

Aimee Taylor

703.725.1294

aimee.taylor@marketalignment.com