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**BREAST CANCER ACTIVIST TO BE RECOGNIZED BY
INDIANAPOLIS WOMEN'S HALF MARATHON & 5K**

Nancy Shepard, R.N. announced as second of three 2017 Phenomenal Woman

INDIANAPOLIS...The Indianapolis Women's Half Marathon & 5K, owned and produced by Carmel Road Racing Group, announced today that it will recognize Nancy Shepard, R.N. as the second of its 2017 **Phenomenal Women**. To be chosen, a Phenomenal Woman must meet one of three criteria: she is an advocate for women's running, she has changed her community for the better or she has overcome personal or physical adversity.

Shepard will be introduced during the Opening Ceremonies at this year's race on Saturday, September 30, 2017. The Opening Ceremonies at the event will begin at 7:00 a.m. at Ohio and Meridian Streets. She was chosen because of the difference she has made in her community. Shepard is the founder and executive director of the Indiana Women in Need Foundation (I.W.I.N.). I.W.I.N. supports women statewide, currently receiving treatment for breast cancer, by securing and paying for individual services that relieve emotional, physical and financial burdens. She was inspired to start I.W.I.N. when she saw a friend struggle with the everyday challenges of life while undergoing breast cancer treatment.

I.W.I.N. grew from serving three women in the first year to serving over 500 women and men per year today and has supplied over \$1.5 million in services to patients across Indiana. The services provided by I.W.I.N. include those such as childcare, housekeeping, yard maintenance, transportation assistance, meal preparation, photography services, in home pet care, massage therapy, yoga and exercise classes.

"I am so impressed with what Nancy has done. She recognized an unmet need among breast cancer survivors and then did something about it. Because of her vision, I.W.I.N. has made the lives of breast cancer patients a bit easier and more comfortable. We appreciate the opportunity to salute her for the difference she has made for thousands of Indiana breast cancer patients."

"My dedication to the fight against breast cancer began several years ago when a good friend was diagnosed with breast cancer. That's when I learned the impact undergoing treatment had on a woman. I realized that even the simple things in life such as house cleaning or grocery shopping, became stressors. I am humbled to be chosen by the Indianapolis Women's Half Marathon and 5K as a Phenomenal Woman."

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NOTE TO EDITORS – Shepard photo attached

***About Indy Women's Half Marathon & 5K** - The Indy Women's Half Marathon was introduced to the central Indiana running community in August 2010 as the first women's only half marathon in Indiana. In just a few years, it has become the **largest women's running event in the state and the 13th largest Women's half marathon in the U.S.** A women's only race offers a unique atmosphere, emotion and camaraderie from women of all ages and abilities. Some race competitively, some for charities, some for loved ones or for reasons we may never know about and some will run with friends decked out in colorful fashions. According to a 2014 Running USA industry report, there are 8.6 million female runners in the U.S. Within that group, half marathons are the fastest growing race distance. For more information or to register for either the Half Marathon or 5K, go to www.indywomenshalfmarathon.com.*