



This year's honorees for Hadassah Greater Atlanta's Breast Strokes – The Big Reveal are the Angels 4 Angels Team, formed under the leadership of Debbi Chartash, Melody Maziar and continued through the leadership of Rina Wolfe. The team was formed to honor the lives of three outstanding, active women in the Jewish community who lost their fervent fight against breast cancer under the age of 50: Jill Albert, Lori Fierman and Debbie Sonenshine. The fourth angel is for all the survivors and those who we walk to remember.

Why did Debbi and Melody decide to form this team? In 1999, Debbi Chartash and Melody Maziar, former college roommates, began walking for the 3-Day 60 Mile Walk for Breast Cancer. Together, they decided to register for this event after Debbi lost a dear friend to breast cancer, age 44, and Melody's colleague from work lost his young daughter to breast cancer.

In 2006, during their fifth walk, they decided this was their final walk. However, immediately after completing the walk, they learned their friend, Jill Albert, lost her fight with breast cancer. At that point, Debbi and Melody knew they couldn't quit; they had to do more. They created a team, Angels 4 Angels, with the thought that if every team member raised at least the required registration amount of \$2300 there would be much more additional money for research and awareness. Debbi and Melody visualized a future world **without breast cancer** and set out to recruit people to raise money and make this a reality. Initially, Debbi and Melody's goal was to form a team of 30 walkers to participate in the 2007 Susan G. Komen® 3-Day in Atlanta. They held weekly, informational meetings, distributed fliers, formed a Team Newsletter and held "Meet and Greet" to recruit others to their

team. The word spread and their goal of 30 people became 120 walkers, including Debbi's husband, who crewed, Debbi's son, seven rabbis and eight cancer survivors. Angels 4 Angels, in its first year, raised almost \$260,000, more than any other team in Atlanta!

The walk with Angels 4 Angels was more meaningful to Debbi and the team; Debbi was diagnosed with breast cancer four months prior to the walk. Undergoing treatment, Debbi was determined to walk the Susan G. Komen® 3-Day in October of 2007. She recalls, "I felt lucky - I had 120 angels behind me." Debbi and Melody walked a total of 10 times in the 3-Day Walks, leading the Angels 4 Angels team for the first three years.

Rina Wolfe, who lost her sister, Lori Fierman, to breast cancer, was an early recruit for the Angel team. Rina was – and is - a tremendous leader, following Debbi and Melody's absence as team leaders. Rina continues to make strides for breast cancer, keeping the Angels 4 Angels team alive seven additional years. Rina's entire family has been very involved, including her niece Emily, Lori's daughter, her 85-year old mom registered and walked in 2006, her children and grandchildren have all raised money and participated in these walks year after year.

Altogether, the amazing Angels 4 Angels Team raised well over \$1 million. Yes, the team walked to raise money and awareness for breast cancer; however, also gained were friendships and **a definite purpose**. YOU – and everyone who has supported us – has brought us closer to our dream: **living in a world without breast cancer**.