

# Rockin' fundraiser to combat cancer

By Darcy Clinton  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**Name:** Stephanie Robin, 42

**Residence:** Boca Raton  
**Birthplace:** Great Neck, N.Y.

**Family:** Husband, Michael Robin; son, Coby, 10; daughter, Skylar, 8

**Career:** Certified teacher; now raising her children full time

**Cause:** Think Pink Rocks, a nonprofit organization raising awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer; genetic testing for the disease, and providing funding for screenings, treatment and research.

**Q. Describe your volunteer role.**

A. My dear friend, Elizabeth Weprin, and I formed this nonprofit organization in 2005 to increase awareness about what factors put men and women at risk for testing positive for BRCA gene mutations.

**Q. How can educating the community about BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutation testing and genetic counseling help?**

A. A woman's risk for developing breast and ovarian cancer is increased if she has a positive BRCA test. Individuals with a family history of cancer, or an Ashkenazi Jewish background, have a higher risk for inheriting the harmful BRCA gene mutation. Even men

can inherit it.

**Q. Why is this important to you?**

A. I have been battling breast cancer since 2004. I began screening for cancer early, but had I known my ethnic background put me at a much higher risk for inheriting the harmful BRCA gene, my screening regimen would have been much different. In six months' time, a 5-centimeter tumor grew undetected in my breast. I discovered the tumor after a fluke accident left a painful bruise, and my doctor sent me for an early mammogram. I don't want that to happen to anyone else.

**Q. What have you accomplished through this organization?**

A. In 2005, when my first treatment was complete, Elizabeth and I formed Think Pink. We held a luncheon and raised more than \$40,000. In 2006, I learned the cancer had metastasized to my lungs. This second bout fighting and beating the disease reenergized my desire to fight for myself and others. We held luncheons in 2006 and 2007 before switching to the Think Pink Rocks format.

**Q. Why did you switch the format and venue of your fundraisers?**

A. Through the concert venue, we are able to reach thousands of people, and that is our main goal — to educate and help as many people as possible. In 2007, I learned



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Stephanie Robin is a co-founder of Think Pink Rocks, which will have its annual benefit concert Oct. 9 in Boca Raton.

the cancer had returned in my lungs. I've been traveling to New York every three months for treatments since then. Knowing your family history and how and when to test for the BRCA gene can save your life. My goal is to prevent others from having to learn this information the way I did, when it was almost too late.

Think Pink Rocks is scheduled for Oct. 9 at the Count de Hoernle Amphitheater at Mizner Park in Boca Raton. Artists scheduled to perform include Shontelle, Melanie Fiona, Asher Roth, Ray J and Brandy, with a special appearance by Pitbull.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.thinkpinkrocks.com](http://www.thinkpinkrocks.com) or call 888-711-9399.

