

Immediate Release

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Stroke Survivors “Stroke” to Dragon Boat Victory ***Global Stroke Resource Wins Inaugural Stroke Awareness Cup***

ORLANDO, Fla. (October 23, 2014) — Powered by stroke survivors, caregivers, and supporters, team *Stroke for Strokes*, sponsored by **Global Stroke Resource (Bcenter.com)** won the inaugural **Stroke Awareness Cup** at the 7th Annual Walgreens Orlando International Dragon Boat Festival on October 18, 2014 at Bill Frederick Park at Turkey Lake. In an effort to make waves with stroke awareness efforts, GWN Dragon Boat, in partnership with the Central Florida Stroke Alliance, added the new ‘stroke’ division with participation from Global Stroke Resource, Health Central, and Orlando Health — totaling four amateur boat crews.

“Our participation in the dragon boat race was a display of the physical and emotional strength and victory that stroke survivors can reach in the aftermath of stroke,” said Valerie Greene, President of the Central Florida Stroke Club and Founder of Global Stroke Resource, an Orlando based nonprofit dedicated to providing resources, hope and direction to stroke survivors and caregivers.

With Greene positioned at the boat’s helm as drummer and team captain Keith Cogshall, Senior Clinical Specialist at Genentech, steering from the back, *Stroke for Strokes* paddlers were strategically positioned throughout the 20-person dragon boat.

“Because some of our paddlers have paralysis as a result of stroke, our team situated each member to effectively row with their able-bodied side. Perhaps our competitors doubted our abilities because of our disabilities but, clearly, we collectively empowered one another to channel our proven perseverance and ultimately claim the win,” Greene explained, who confirms that the team’s trophy and individual medals symbolize a greater (life) victory. “These stroke survivors, myself included, were once told that they would never walk or talk again... And now they’ve won a physical endurance challenge! It’s a true testament of the human spirit. I’m so proud of my fellow survivors and our many champions.”

Greene says the recent win has increased momentum leading into **World Stroke Day**, to be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2014. In observance, Global Stroke Resource has launched its “365 Stroke Challenge,” a workplace wellness fundraiser. Download event information and a [Stroke Educational Toolkit](#) at [Bcenter.com](#).

About Bcenter: Global Stroke Resource, Inc., dba Bcenter.com, is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to empower, educate and light the path to recovery for stroke survivors and families. Bcenter is dedicated to providing treatment resources, hope and direction. Founder Valerie Greene personally overcame grim odds in the aftermath of two debilitating strokes that nearly took her life at just 31 years old. Acknowledging that her miraculous survival and recovery could impact others afflicted by stroke or any disability, Greene crusaded for years to support healthcare advocacy, programs and education, and now serves as a stroke coach. Visit [Bcenter.com](#) or call (888) 942-Bwell (9355).