NEWS RELEASE

American Airlines employees Stand Up To Cancer

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On Friday, September 9, some very special employees of American Airlines and their families attended the Stand Up To Cancer telethon in Los Angeles.

As the official airline of Stand Up To Cancer, American hosted 15 employees who have been touched by cancer and their guests to the live SU2C telethon in Los Angeles.

LGA-based First Officer, Todd Lush, ORD-based Flight Attendant Debby Simpson and DFW-based Customer Service Agent Michael Leyton had the opportunity to walk the red carpet, and sit within the first few rows of the audience.

“I am so grateful I was able to go to the Stand Up To Cancer telecast with other cancer surviving members of the American Airlines family,” said Leyton. “And to be in the front row was more than I could have hoped for.”

The employees in attendance represented 11 stations, and six work groups. They not only represent a wide spectrum of stations and departments, but also cancer diagnosis including; Brain, Breast, Colon, Esophageal, Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, Leukemia, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, Ovarian, Pancreatic, Skin, Testicular and Thyroid.

“It was so wonderful to be at the telecast and have the opportunity to meet other survivors, see firsthand what Stand Up is doing to fight this disease, and push the boundaries of cancer research,” said Kimberly Gibbs, Manager

Applications Development – Tech Ops, TUL. “I am proud to work for American, and I’m grateful for our collaboration with SU2C.”

And while the telethon helped raise more than $111 million in pledged donations, American’s customers have also helped through the “Miles to Stand Up” program which has helped raise nearly $350,000 to help further groundbreaking research.

Facing this sometimes deadly disease head-on is a challenge many American employees are battling on a daily basis.

“Cancer is much easier to go through yourself than it is to watch someone else battle it,” says MIA-based duty manager Mandy Blaize. And she should know. She watched her sister Melodie battle cancer, supporting her every step of the way. About a year after her sister finished treatment, Mandy was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma and began treatments of her own.

During her own treatment in 2015, Mandy followed her sister’s example. She says, “The only logical thing for me to do was make the burden seem lighter with a positive attitude and genuine appreciation of each and every day, just like my sister had.”

After many months of treatments, both Melodie and Mandy remain happy, healthy and cancer free.