

## 2014-15 Komen Northeast Ohio Grant Announcement

April 1, 2014

### KOMEN NORTHEAST OHIO TO PROVIDE NEARLY \$800,000 IN COMMUNITY GRANTS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE AND SAVE LIVES

CLEVELAND, Ohio – April 1, 2014 – Most people recognize the Komen name from the Race for the Cure and other popular fundraising events. What many people do not realize, though, is that the bulk of the money raised by these local events goes to support worthy organizations and programs targeted to improving access to breast health services across Northeast Ohio. This year, Susan G. Komen Northeast Ohio® is contributing nearly \$800,000 to 10 local organizations and hospitals for projects supporting the Komen promise to save lives and end breast cancer forever. Agencies throughout Northeast Ohio were chosen for their evidence-based methods and strategies, with a specific focus on assisting the underinsured, uninsured, and individuals living at or below the poverty line.

These community grants open the door to health care for thousands of medically underserved women and men across Komen Northeast Ohio's 22-county service area. Northeast Ohio residents will not only gain access to life-saving breast cancer screening and diagnostic services, they will also receive breast cancer education, outreach, and survivor support services, like assistance with mortgage payments for individuals in active treatment for breast cancer. Sean Shacklett, Executive Director of Komen Northeast Ohio, says, "We are very excited to partner with these local organizations to ensure everyone, regardless of age, race, income, or education level, has access to the vital breast health services they need to beat this disease." In 2014, more than 14,000 individuals will be touched by a Komen Northeast Ohio grant.

Komen Northeast Ohio has a definitive understanding of where the populations most in-need of services live thanks to Komen Northeast Ohio's Community Profile Report. The Community Profile is a community-based needs assessment conducted every four years that examines the barriers to services and gaps in care in Northeast Ohio. This comprehensive assessment allows Komen to evaluate areas down to the zip code level to identify where people are most at-risk and where services are most needed. All of Komen Northeast Ohio's community grant recipients specifically assist those targeted populations and areas of need as outlined in the Community Profile.

Matt Nakon, founder of the Karen P. Nakon Breast Cancer Foundation based in Avon, acknowledges that funding from Komen greatly impacts their ability to serve those most in need. "Our partnership with Komen over the last six years has permitted the Nakon Foundation to meaningfully expand its reach into the rural and underserved markets of Northeast Ohio, where we were far more limited from a geographic and economic standpoint. Our Komen grant has meant that we can help more families in a far wider service territory than we ever could have on our own." Komen Northeast Ohio provides funding to the Nakon Foundation to support their emergency financial assistance efforts for those burdened with the costs associated with breast cancer treatments. The Nakon Foundation provides assistance to women in active treatment for

breast cancer to help with cost of living expenses, like rent, utility payments, and transportation to and from treatment. The funding provided by Komen Northeast Ohio directly assists patients in obtaining the services they need to survive.

Mike Gall, President of Komen Northeast Ohio, says the organization is committed to making a significant impact in the community one by one. "Komen Northeast Ohio firmly believes in the power of one. One action can affect one life and can impact one community. I sincerely hope that each of our supporters knows that one of the dollars they raised for the Race for the Cure will go on to help one woman, one family, one community, and possibly save one life."

Fundraising activities throughout the year enable Komen Northeast Ohio to fulfill these grant requests. In 2013, the Komen Northeast Ohio Race for the Cure® series included over 8,400 participants and raised just over \$900,000.

Information information for the grant recipients can be found at [here](#).

### **About Susan G. Komen Northeast Ohio**

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. Komen Northeast Ohio is working to better the lives of those facing breast cancer in the local community. Through events like the Komen Cleveland Race for the Cure® and the Komen Akron Race for the Cure®, Komen Northeast Ohio has invested approximately \$14 million in community breast health programs in 22 counties in Northeast Ohio and has helped contribute to the more than \$800 million invested globally in research. For more information, call 216-292-CURE (2873) or visit [www.komenneohio.org](http://www.komenneohio.org).

### **About Susan G. Komen®**

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than \$800 million in research and provided \$1.7 billion in funding to screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs serving millions of people in more than 30 countries worldwide. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. Visit [komen.org](http://komen.org) or call 1-877 GO KOMEN. Connect with us on Facebook at [facebook.com/susangkomen](https://facebook.com/susangkomen) and Twitter @SusanGKomen.