



Susan G. Komen Northeast Ohio
2017-2018 Community Grant Recipients – Program Abstracts

Center for Appalachia Research in Cancer Education
Project Hoffnung (HOPE): The Amish and Mennonite Breast Health Project
Amount Awarded: \$74,999

Ohio contains the world's largest Amish settlement, and several dozen smaller settlements are scattered throughout Ohio in mostly rural, underserved communities where access to cancer screening is limited or unavailable. Our Komen-funded research has indicated that breast cancer mortality rates are disproportionately higher among Amish women. Project Hoffnung (or "Hope") was established in 1997 to address health disparities within Amish & Mennonite communities.

By establishing community-led screening and education programs in Ashland, Ashtabula, Geauga, Holmes, Medina, Richland, Trumbull and Wayne Counties, we hope to reach 400 women living in some of the most resource-starved settlements in Ohio. The proposed program aims to use the foundation of trust we have established over 19 years and to combine a sound evaluation plan with strong community-based partnerships. In short, our mission is to prevent the unnecessary death from breast cancer of Amish and Mennonite women.

JD Breast Cancer Foundation
Project Lifeline: Helping Women Undergoing Breast Cancer Treatment in Northeast Ohio
Amount Awarded: \$25,000

Breast cancer presents challenging financial situations for women undergoing treatment. Some women choose between paying for treatment or food for their family; one client received funding for food when she and her spouse were out of work due to her treatment, and their government assistance had not yet arrived. JD BCF provides a solution when these financial crises arise. Project Lifeline provides funding for housing, utilities, groceries, and transportation. Funding is paid within 30 days of receiving an application. Gas and grocery payments are made in the form of grocery store/ gas station gift cards sent to the client; all other funding is sent directly to the company being paid (i.e. utility company, etc.). JD BCF aims to serve 80 women in Northeast Ohio in 2017; funding from Komen would increase funds by 142% and allow us to serve up to 194 women. Project Lifeline increases access to treatment, and improves quality of life by reducing financial stress.

Karen P. Nakon Breast Cancer Foundation
Financial Assistance for Those Burdened with High Costs of a Breast Cancer Diagnosis
Amount Awarded: \$25,000

The Nakon Foundation's program helps alleviate the fiscal challenges brought on by a breast cancer diagnosis. The Foundation offers support to un/underinsured and low income patients as they progress on their journey into survivorship by providing critical payments such as mortgage, rent, utility expenses, transportation costs, insurance deductibles, etc. Each patient

fills out an application that gives a snapshot of their financial situation, treatment plan and assistance needs. Once an expense is approved through the defined board review process, payment is made directly to the third party who is owed. The Foundation expects to serve 150 BC patients during the grant period. These grants give those in financial need the necessary support to sustain them through their hardship. Reducing the financial burden allows them to continue with uninterrupted medical treatments and removes some anxiety so they can focus on healing. This service helps rally community support and awareness.

Mercy Medical Center

Boldly Going the Distance: Mobilizing Quality Breast Care to Women in Need

Amount Awarded: \$75,000

African American women are less likely than white women to get breast cancer, yet they have a higher mortality rate. Mercy's grant application, "Boldly Going the Distance: Mobilizing Quality Breast Care to Women in Need" aims to reach 200 women through education, 130 women through screenings, and 50 women needing diagnostic views at 10 convenient service locations with non-traditional hours. This program aligns Mercy's established breast health personnel with Komen's generous funding to achieve the priorities of accessibility, education, and detection. The project will offer culturally competent education, accessible mammograms, and provide diagnostic services for those in need. Mercy has partnered with the Komen Northeast Ohio affiliate for over 14 years. Along with many local collaborators, Mercy will work toward reducing the breast cancer disparities and pave the way toward achieving Komen's bold goal of reducing breast cancer deaths by 50% in 10 years.

The MetroHealth Foundation

BRinging Education, Advocacy and Support Together (BREAST)

Amount Awarded: \$74,865

MHS improves breast health of uninsured/underinsured (138% of FPL), women in Cuyahoga County through its Bringing Education, Advocacy & Support Together (BREAST)/Amigas Program. The program improves access and reduces barriers to care by providing free culturally-sensitive services, clinical breast exams (CBEs), mammograms and patient navigation. Since 2005, the program has screened over 6,320 women, educated 42,200, and held 45 breast screening events. In addition, 2 bilingual patient navigators have arranged follow-up services including transportation, appointment reminders, interpretation services, financial assistance, and other resources to over 2,800 patients. This grant cycle, the program will serve 5210 patients: 240 CBEs, 300 mammograms, patient navigation services for 1110 patients and outreach and education to 4100 women. Evaluation methods: tracking satisfaction surveys, patient demographics, changes in patient screening behavior, cancers diagnosed and stages.

Summa Health System

Shop Talk

Amount Awarded: \$17,000

Social determinants of health produce barriers to healthcare. Summa Health believes a Community Health Worker (CHW) outreach program will link people not currently receiving breast screenings to healthcare providers and social service agencies that can assist in addressing barriers to care. Summa Health's "Shop Talk" program will embed a CHW beyond the

hospital walls and into the community to target uninsured, underinsured women who are not receiving breast screenings. The CHW will use evidence-based practices to provide outreach, education, navigation and breast imaging services to 250 women living in Summa's three-county area. The CHW will decrease disparities and support all four of Komen's priorities including access, quality of care, education and healthcare system performance improvement by decreasing systemic barriers to care. With Komen's support, Summa Health will reduce barriers and increase accessibility to make equitable breast health a reality.