

2018-2019 Komen Atlanta Grantees

Komen Atlanta is proud to award more than \$1.08 million to 17 community partners in 2018-2019. Komen Atlanta has raised more than \$47 million since its inception in 1991 to enable women and men in metro Atlanta to detect and survive breast cancer.

Atlanta Legal Aid

“Breast Cancer Legal Project”

The BCLP provides holistic legal services to low-income breast cancer patients and survivors in metro Atlanta. Unmet legal needs of low-income breast cancer patients and survivors are barriers to care and affect their ability to focus on treatment and wellness. Attorneys and paralegals address legal issues including employment rights, access to public benefits, maintaining income and housing, and preparing wills and advance directives. The BCLP provides legal advice and representation, works with medical provider partners to conduct outreach and offsite intake, and trains pro bono attorneys to serve the unique needs of this specialized population. The BCLP will open 150 cases for 125 low-income breast cancer patients and survivors, including those in Fulton, DeKalb and Clayton Counties, as well as Hispanic and LGBTQ individuals. The BCLP resolves legal issues that serve as barriers to treatment and wellness and measures these results by tracking outcomes in its case management system.

Boat People SOS

“Health Awareness & Promotion Program for Breast Health”

Vietnamese women in Metro-Atlanta are at high risk of breast cancer death due to cultural, linguistic, transportation, and financial barriers preventing them from accessing breast care. To help disadvantaged women overcome these barriers, we will facilitate timely access to mammogram screenings to increase early diagnosis through comprehensive care services and enhance communication between health providers and clients. Through these services, 400 women will receive breast health education and clinical breast exams; 200 women will receive free screening mammograms, and 100% of women with abnormal results will receive individualized care plan for timely access to diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up services as they move through breast health continuum of care. Through our client records and data file, we will document project outcomes. With 9 years of successful programming, we anticipate the project will increase screening rates and reduce breast cancer mortality in our community.

Center for Black Women’s Wellness, Inc.

“Community Breast Health Initiative”

Black women suffer from breast cancer mortality at disproportionate rates compared to White women, with disparities attributed to factors such as income and access to care. To address this, CBWW implements its Community Breast Health Initiative to provide culturally relevant breast health education and low/no cost onsite and offsite screening and diagnostic services. Proposed funding will increase access to breast health services for 155 women. Moreover, 150 women will receive breast health education. Women will be uninsured or under-insured. Women will reside in Komen Atlanta’s 13 county service area, with special focus on women in Neighborhood Planning Unit V, immediately southwest of downtown Atlanta. Electronic medical records, logs, and surveys will be used to track changes in knowledge, those receiving screening and diagnostic services, completed referrals, and the number diagnosed with breast cancer and linked to treatment.

Cobb and Douglas Public Health

“Healthy Breasts Project”

Cobb County has the 5th highest breast cancer incidence rate of Atlanta metro counties. Cobb and Douglas county residents rely on CDPH support for breast health through education and awareness initiatives, clinical screening exams, and mammography referral programs. Of the 293 women served during the last grant cycle, 90% (73% Latina and 17% African –American) were from minority groups. CDPH's Healthy Breasts Project, supported by Susan G. Komen funding, identifies breast cancer at an early stage to increase availability of treatment options and decrease consequences associated with breast cancer diagnosis, especially mortality. The project will provide screening and diagnostic assessment for 490 low-income individuals in Cobb and Douglas counties who are under- or uninsured. Data from past Komen funding years indicate that approximately five women who receive screening services during the project cycle will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Center for Pan-Asian Community Service, Inc.

“ABC- Asian Breast Care Program”

The ABC Program meets the gap in culturally and linguistically competent screening and diagnostic services for limited English proficient, immigrant and refugee clients. ABC educates clients about the importance of mammograms and clinical breast exams (CBE) and how to access these services, providing low/no cost clinical breast exams and screening mammography and diagnostic services and linking women to linguistically and culturally competent providers if follow-up treatment is required. ABC provides transportation to clients who cannot otherwise access screenings and follow up care. Annually, ABC provides CBEs and mammograms to over 500 low-income, limited English proficient immigrant women. The program's support groups nurture women during and after treatment. ABC increases the percentage of people who progress through the continuum of care and receive early stage cancer diagnosis, as evidenced by closely monitored and evaluated electronic health records of each program participant.

DeKalb Medical

“Screening mammograms and diagnostic breast services for uninsured and underinsured”

Women who are uninsured or underinsured cannot afford mammograms, diagnostic breast services or treatment. DeKalb Medical proposes to provide screening mammograms for 320 women, diagnostic services for 156 women (including 156 diagnostic mammograms and 117 ultrasounds) and biopsies for 16 women. Patients will be uninsured or underinsured, including LGBTQ, who live at or below 250% of the federal poverty level, and reside in Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton or Henry counties. DeKalb has one of the highest populations of immigrants and refugees in the entire US; most receive little or no healthcare in their countries of origin. Our project would bring access to breast care services to those who have rarely been screened, and provide diagnostic services. It will increase the number who enter and progress through the continuum of care, reducing breast cancer mortality. Metrics will include the number screened, diagnostic imaging within 30 days, and breast biopsies within 30 days.

Emory St. Joseph’s

“Increasing Access to Screening Mammography by Utilizing Mobile Mammography Van Services”

A disparity in breast cancer mortality unfortunately exists. A recent Avon study (2016) demonstrated that from 2010-2014 mortality among White women was 21.4 deaths per 100,000 women and the mortality among African American women was 30.7 deaths per 100,000 women. Many factors contribute to this disparity, but we plan to address access to care. Our mobile van will travel to areas around Atlanta where mortality rates are highest and offer screening mammograms. If called back, these women will be able to have diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, MRIs, and biopsies at the St. Joseph's Breast Center. We plan to screen 500 women, provide 50 diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, up to 30 biopsies, and 10 MRIs. Screening mammography has been proven to result in a 40% reduction in breast cancer mortality, and we believe that we will see an increase in treatable cases. We will record data from these patients and closely monitor stage, treatment, and outcome.

The Good Samaritan Health Center

“Breast Health Program”

The Breast Health Program will increase access to and improve the affordability of screening and diagnostic procedures for medically underserved populations including those that are uninsured, low-income, or homeless (with the majority being African American and Latina women with at least 75% of them residing in Cherokee, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, or Henry Counties). This program will provide access to 930 breast health services including clinical breast exams, screening mammograms (mobile mammography), diagnostics for approximately 500 individuals. This year Good Sam will offer a mobile unit onsite at least 30 times, offer gas cards to those who need it, and will continue to provide van transportation for all homeless patients every Friday. We will continue to follow up with patients and navigate them through the process. Good Sam will incorporate our evidence-based practice to increase compliance rates and provide increased mobile mammography access.

Grady Hospital

“Access to Breast Cancer Diagnostic Services for Underserved Women”

Grady’s Cancer Center will support Komen Atlanta’s priority to increase access to affordable diagnostic procedures for low-income women, particularly African American women and other minorities who are uninsured or underinsured. Komen funding will be used to provide diagnostic services – including diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, biopsies and cyst aspirations – at no cost to an estimated 115 women. Priority will be given to residents of Fulton or DeKalb County, though women from other counties within Komen’s service area could be considered, particularly those who would otherwise not have access to care. The major goal of the project is to increase timely access to breast cancer diagnostic services for medically underserved women. By providing affordable, accessible diagnostic procedures – in conjunction with the Cancer Center’s navigation, treatment and support services – Grady aims to prevent patients from delaying care so that they have the best possible health outcomes.

Gwinnett, Newton, & Rockdale County Health Departments

“Advancing Breast Health and Community Partnerships in Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale Counties”

The Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale County health district strives to increase screening and diagnostics for individuals at-risk of breast cancer. Our target population includes under/uninsured females aged over 40 years and living below 250% of the federal poverty level. We specifically aim to optimize access for our Hispanic/Latina, Black, Asian, Immigrant, and LGBTQ communities. Our trained healthcare personnel provide education, clinical breast exams, and referrals for mammograms and diagnostic services. An additional 400 women across our three counties will be served. Overall, the project will increase screening and diagnostic services, increase access to quality and timely care, and optimize outcomes through culturally-competent client navigation along the breast care continuum. Metrics include the number of screening and diagnostic services provided, duration of time for follow-up services, the number of travel vouchers utilized, and the number of community engagement activities.

Mercy Care

“Mercy Care Breast and Cervical Cancer Program”

BCCP offers a continuum of breast cancer services and support for low-income minority women in metro Atlanta. These are women who often face barriers (i.e. poverty, fear, limited English proficiency, etc.) in accessing breast health and cancer care services. Program activities funded by Susan G. Komen will include screening mammography, diagnostic and support/navigation. The agency partners with the Voyles Breast Health Center at Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital to offer comprehensive services to its patients. During the grant period, approximately 335 women will be served. To measure program outcomes in reducing barriers to care among the target population, BCCP utilizes EPIC (Electronic Medical Record) to capture and track encounters including education, referrals for screening and diagnostic services, outcomes relative to abnormal findings, patient navigation encounters, and demographic data (i.e. age, ethnicity, and income). The collected data is evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Northside Hospital

“Northside Hospital’s Breast Diagnostic Services Project for Underserved Women”

Lack of access to quality care is a barrier too often experienced by many women. This project will increase access to breast diagnostic services for approximately 350-400 medically underserved women, especially African American and Hispanic/Latina women residing in Cherokee, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton and Henry counties. Financial support will be used exclusively to provide free diagnostic services (diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, biopsies, cyst aspirations, breast MRIs and MRI biopsies) to uninsured/underserved women living below 250% of the federal poverty level who reside within Komen's service area and have a physician's order. Increasing access to care will increase survival, allow more underserved women in the opportunity to detect breast cancer earlier and will reduce the number of late stage disease diagnosed annually in this population. Outcomes will be measured on a monthly basis and will compare program objectives with the actual number of services provided.

Southern Regional Medical Center: Women’s Center at Spivey Station

“Caring Compressions”

The Breast Center at Spivey Station allows SRGA to extend services further into the communities of South Metro Atlanta. The Caring Compression's program provides access to screening and diagnostic services to low income, under insured, and uninsured women and men in this region. Our objective include 225 Screening mammograms, 140 diagnostic mammograms, 100 Ultrasounds, 5 Breast MRI's, 30 Ultrasound Biopsies, 6 Stereotatic Biopsies and Lymphedema services. In a region where public transportation is limited, our program also provides transportation to and from our facility. The Nurse Navigator is able to assist patients with components of breast care from their point of entry to completion of their treatment. It is through the Clinical Care Coordinator that we are able to track patient outcomes and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the program. Without this program, there is no where in our community for these patients to receive screening and diagnostic services.

The Health Initiative

“Increasing LGBTQ Access to Screenings”

The purpose of this project is to increase the number of LGBTQ individuals in the Komen Atlanta service area accessing breast health screenings. This effort will promote early detection & increase survival rates within this vulnerable population. HI will distribute culturally specific breast health messaging, which directs individuals to free screenings services, through electronic marketing, social media, & tabling at community events. As LGBTQ women who identify as masculine-of-center are nonresponsive to traditional breast health campaigns, messaging reflects a range of gender presentations. Provider partners will conduct CBEs & mammograms (via mobile units) at a minimum of three community events. Screenings will also be provided through appointments scheduled with local providers. This project will result in increased access to breast health services for LGBTQ individuals, an underserved, at risk population. A total of 150 clinical breast exams and 75 mammograms will be conducted.

Turning Point Breast Cancer Rehabilitation

“Increase Access to Specialized Breast Cancer Rehabilitation”

Provide financial assistance to low-income, under-/uninsured breast cancer patients/survivors, increasing access to tailored rehabilitation and support. TurningPoint addresses the impact of breast cancer treatment and helps restore patients' quality of life by improving physical functioning, providing emotional support and enhancing well-being. Funding supports: 1. Financial and transportation assistance for 350 hours of care for: physical therapy, massage therapy, psychosocial and nutritional counseling, tailored exercise instruction and lymphedema screening and management. 2. Reduced-cost lymphedema garments (20). 3. Outreach and education to 50 metro Atlanta oncology providers/social workers/navigators to broaden understanding of benefits of rehabilitation and increase referrals to TurningPoint for their patients. 4. Education via community education sessions, monthly group support, weekly fitness classes and monthly survivorship tips/topics reaching 1050 individuals.

WellStar

“Reducing Late Stage Breast Cancer Through Targeted Screenings- WellStar Health System”

WellStar Health System will provide free breast cancer screening and diagnostic services through its Mammogram Voucher Program, increasing access to healthcare for medically underserved individuals in our service area. Komen’s priority African American and Latino populations and individuals in Cherokee, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton and Henry counties will be targeted through WellStar’s robust community outreach and education efforts and congregational nurse network. Free screening mammograms and diagnostic services will be provided to all community members who meet eligibility requirements (including being uninsured or living below 250% of the federal poverty level) at WellStar hospitals and outpatient imaging centers serving these priority counties. By providing 475 additional mammograms to individuals in need we will positively impact the health of the community by reducing the incidence of late-stage breast cancer diagnoses.

YWCA

“Eliminating Barriers to Early Breast Cancer Detection for Medically Underserved and Uninsured Women”

YWCA of Greater Atlanta’s ENCOREplus focuses on eliminating barriers associated with detecting breast cancer early for underserved African American and Latina women. The project will provide 600 underserved women of color in Fulton and DeKalb counties with lifesaving early detection information and 138 qualified uninsured women with free mammography screenings. Key activities will include: 1) Facilitating culturally specific educational workshops about breast cancer risk factors, lowering risk factors and early detection recommendations, 2) Coordination of mammography screening appointments, 3) Transportation assistance, and 4) Follow-up diagnostic support. Pre- and post-tests will be administered to measure change in participants’ breast health knowledge, and mammography referral forms will track completed screenings. Expected outcomes will be positive changes in attitudes and behavior relating to breast health resulting in earlier diagnoses of breast cancer.