

2019-2020 Komen Atlanta Grantee Abstracts

Komen Atlanta is proud to award \$950 thousand to 15 community partners in 2019-2020. Komen Atlanta has raised more than \$52 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”

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, public benefits, income maintenance, housing, and wills and advance directives. 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 population. BCLP will open 115 cases for low-income breast cancer patients and survivors, including those in Fulton, DeKalb and Clayton Counties, as well as Hispanic/Latina and LGBTQ clients. BCLP will handle cases for 75 individuals to resolve their legal issues that are barriers to treatment and wellness. We will measure these results by tracking outcomes in our case management system.

Boat People SOS “Health Awareness & Promotion Program - Breast Health”

Vietnamese and other immigrant women in Metro-Atlanta are at high risk of breast cancer mortality rate due to the cultural, linguistic, transportation, and financial barriers that reduce their access to medical care. BPSOS will facilitate timely access to mammogram screenings through comprehensive and culturally competent care services, effective rapport among healthcare providers and clients, and in-language breast health information for the community. Our program will provide breast health education and clinical breast exams to 450 women and free mammogram screenings to 230 women. One hundred percent of patients with abnormal results will receive individualized care plans that prompt access to diagnosis, navigation to treatment, and follow-up services. Program outcomes will be tracked and measured using our client records. Our program plans to increase access to screenings and to reduce the rate of advanced-stage diagnoses among the immigrant and under-served populations in Georgia.

Center for Black Women’s Wellness, Inc. “Community Breast Health Initiative”

CBWW has uniquely positioned itself as a premier model for the delivery of holistic health in a culturally appropriate and community-based setting and has been able to garner the trust, respect and support from its service community, local health and social service providers, and funders alike. CBWW serves nearly 5,000 individuals annually through its core programs. CBWW’s Community Breast Health Initiative will build on its experience of providing low cost/no cost clinical breast exams, done onsite through its women’s health clinic; and coordinating low cost/no cost screening mammograms and diagnostic services through area partners. Funding will increase access to breast health services for 155 women, including breast health education for 150 women. Women will be primarily African-American, uninsured or underinsured, unemployed, or low-income. Electronic medical records, logs, and surveys will be used to track outcomes.

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 286 individuals served during the last grant cycle, 86% (73% Latina and 13% 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 individuals 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 appropriate screening and diagnostic services for low income and limited English proficient immigrants and refugees in the Atlanta area. ABC educates clients about the importance of mammograms and clinical breast exams (CBE) and how to access these services. The program also offers low or no cost CBEs, screening and diagnostic services, and linkage to culturally and linguistically appropriate treatment if needed. In addition, ABC provides transportation, financial assistance, and patient navigation to support clients who cannot otherwise access breast care. Annually, ABC provides CBEs and mammograms to over 400 women in our focus population. ABC increases the percentage of women who progress through the continuum of care and receive early stage cancer diagnosis as evidenced by closely monitored electronic health records of each program participant. ABC expects to achieve this outcome in every cycle of its implementation.

DeKalb Medical Foundation
Screening, Diagnostic, Treatment Support

Under and uninsured women cannot afford mammograms, diagnostic breast services or treatment. Emory Decatur/Hillandale Hospitals propose to provide screening mammograms to 140 women, diagnostic mammograms to 75 women, ultrasounds to 70 women, diagnostic MRIs to 15 women, and biopsies to 35 women. Patients will be under and uninsured who live at or below 250% of the federal poverty level, and who reside in DeKalb, Clayton, Fulton, Henry, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale 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.

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 targeting services to African American women residing in Cherokee, Clayton,

DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, and Rockdale Counties). This program will provide access to 669 breast health services including clinical breast exams, screening mammograms (mobile mammography), diagnostics for approximately 380 individuals. Additionally, Good Sam will offer a mobile unit onsite at least 30 times and offer gas cards to those that 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 Screening and Diagnostic Services for Underserved Women”

Grady’s Cancer Center will provide affordable breast screening and diagnostic services to underinsured and uninsured women, particularly African American and other minorities residing in Fulton and DeKalb Counties , to support Komen Atlanta’s priority of reducing barriers to quality breast cancer care . Funding will help cover expenses associated with screening and diagnostic procedures, including screening mammograms, unilateral and bilateral diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, biopsies, and cyst aspirations. The Cancer Center’s goal is to offer a full continuum of care by providing timely access to screening and diagnostic services. We anticipate 120 women, who would not have access to services otherwise, will receive these services at no-cost. By providing affordable, accessible procedures in conjunction with the Cancer Center’s navigation, treatment and support services, Grady aims to prevent patients from delaying care to ensure the best possible health outcomes.

Gwinnett, Newton, & Rockdale

“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 Black, Hispanic/Latina, 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 309 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 300 medically underserved women, especially African American and Hispanic women residing in Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton and Rockdale 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 women living below 250% of the federal poverty level and have a physician's order. Increasing access to care will increase survival, allow more underserved women 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.

Spivey Station
“Caring Compressions”

The Breast Center at Spivey Station allows SRGA to extend services 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 includes 271 Screening Mammograms, 149 Diagnostic Mammograms, 99 Ultrasounds, 36 Ultrasound Biopsies, 7 Breast MRI's, 5 MRI Biopsies and 4 Stereotatic Biopsies. We also provide Lymphedema, Physical Therapy and Home Health by referral, when needed. In a region where public transportation is limited, our program provides transportation to and from our facility. The Nurse Navigator is able to assist patients, families and caregivers with receiving care and facilitating timely access to clinical services and resources. The navigation process encompass prediagnosis through all phases of the cancer experience. The navigation services implemented will depend on the particular type, severity, and /or complexity.

Turning Point Breast Cancer Rehabilitation
“Reducing Financial Barriers to Specialized Rehabilitation and Support”

Breast cancer patients and survivors often face physical and psychosocial long-term and late effects resulting from breast cancer and its treatment. TurningPoint provides specialized rehabilitation and support to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of these individuals. Funding will support the provision of reduced-fee and complimentary services and provide financial assistance to eligible low-income, under- or uninsured patients seeking care. TurningPoint serves patients across metro Atlanta by providing specialized physical therapy, massage therapy, lymphedema screening and management, nutritional counseling, tailored exercise programs, and education. Approximately 30 patients will receive 300 visits to improve physical functioning and provide emotional support and enhanced well-being. Eleven tailored Pilates classes will be delivered to approximately 80 participants, resulting in improved physical fitness and reduced risk of recurrence and mortality from breast cancer.

WellStar Foundation

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

WellStar Health System will provide free breast cancer screening and diagnostic services to increase access to healthcare for medically underserved individuals in our service area. In alignment with Komen Atlanta's Community Profile, we will target African American women and women residing in Cherokee, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton and Henry counties through WellStar's robust community outreach and education efforts and congregational nurse network. WellStar hospitals and outpatient imaging centers serving these priority counties will provide free screening mammograms and diagnostic services to individuals who meet eligibility requirements, including living below 250% of the federal poverty level. By eliminating the financial barrier to care and providing 500 screening mammograms and necessary diagnostic services to individuals in need we will reduce the rates of late stage breast cancer diagnosis and breast cancer mortality in the communities we serve.

YWCA of Greater Atlanta

“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 under-served women of color in Fulton and Dekalb Counties with lifesaving early detection information and 170 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 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.