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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SUSAN G. KOMEN SETS BOLD GOAL TO REDUCE U.S. BREAST CANCER DEATHS BY  
50 PERCENT IN 10 YEARS**

***Plan Targets Health Equity for All, Enhanced Research Focus for Most Lethal Breast  
Cancers***

INDIANAPOLIS – Susan G. Komen announced a bold plan today to **reduce the nation’s 40,000 breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in 10 years** by improving access to quality and timely cancer care for the underserved and enhancing Komen’s research focus on lethal breast cancers.

“We know that people die of breast cancer for two reasons: a lack of high-quality breast cancer care accessible to everyone, and a lack of treatments for the most aggressive and deadly forms of this disease,” said Dr. Judith A. Salerno, president and CEO of Susan G. Komen. “We are taking direct action designed to solve these problems to reduce breast cancer deaths by half in the U.S. within the next decade.”

At a local level, Susan G. Komen Central Indiana directly plays a role in these strategies by providing Hoosiers with access to quality and timely breast cancer care, addressing racial and ethnic disparities, and funding breast cancer research. Komen Central Indiana Executive Director Natalie Sutton explained, “Our local Affiliate of Susan G. Komen is right here in central Indiana, committed to saving lives by meeting the most critical needs of our community. We are excited about this bold new goal and eager to deepen our impact in central Indiana in the next decade.”

Komen Central Indiana provides patient navigation and pays for screenings, diagnostic tests, transportation and treatment assistance for underserved individuals in 41 Indiana counties. In 2016 alone, Komen Central Indiana awarded \$832,677 to 15 breast health programs focused on removing barriers and improving access to care

At a national level, Susan G. Komen has invested more than \$2 billion over 34 years for these programs aimed at uninsured, under-insured, and medically vulnerable populations.

“We will never waver from our commitment to remove barriers of language, geography, economics or culture for *all* people facing this disease. Every woman or man must be able to access and receive high-quality breast health and breast cancer care, be supported through their treatment and into survivorship,” Salerno said.

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Komen's bold goal will also support research efforts focused on aggressive forms of breast cancer and metastatic disease (stage IV or cancer that has spread to other parts of the body). Komen also will seek to leverage next-generation technology that can detect breast cancer at its very earliest stages to prevent recurrence and metastasis.

Locally, Komen Central Indiana contributed nearly \$350,000 in its last fiscal year to the global Susan G. Komen research program. The program awarded three new research grants to Indiana researchers in 2015, totaling \$1,750,000. Indiana researchers are located at University of Notre Dame, Purdue University and Indiana University, which is home to the Susan G. Komen Tissue Bank at IU Simon Cancer Center.

"At Komen Central Indiana, we are energized and inspired by the research progress being made at a national level and right here in our community," said Sutton. "We will continue to help local women today with early detection of breast cancer and treatment navigation, and help women tomorrow by funding research that makes care better and outcomes more successful."

As the largest nonprofit funder of breast cancer research (investing more than \$920 million since inception), Komen has funded nearly \$160 million in metastatic disease research since its founding. Komen has funded another \$110 million in research on aggressive forms of breast cancer – such as triple negative, inflammatory breast cancer and hormone-positive forms of breast cancer – that are resistant to standard treatments.

Salerno said Komen's bold goal builds on the progress of the breast cancer movement since Komen was founded in 1982. "Death rates from breast cancer have declined by 37 percent since 1990. We have more treatments than at any time in our history. We've come a very long way from a time when breast cancer couldn't be discussed publicly. Our new bold goal requires us to take a deeper dive and stretch further to ensure that *every* woman or man can be told, 'There is help and hope for you.'"

### **About Susan G. Komen® and Komen Central Indiana**

In the fight to end breast cancer, we are central Indiana's locally led and empowered affiliate of Susan G. Komen®—a global organization whose name is synonymous with the cause. 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. Susan G. Komen Central Indiana works locally to improve outcomes for those facing breast cancer throughout 41 counties in central Indiana. Beginning close to home, funds are used wisely, locally and in ways that directly benefit women, men and families who are dealing with the costly challenge of breast cancer. Local dollars also serve beyond our community as they fund a significant portion of the best breast cancer research around the world. For more information, call 317-638-2873 or visit [komencentralindiana.org](http://komencentralindiana.org).

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