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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Susan G. Komen® Central Indiana Leads Programs to Meet Critical Needs, Save Hoosier Lives in 2017**

*Investment in local programs will address key barriers for breast cancer patients*

INDIANAPOLIS- Susan G. Komen® Central Indiana is investing nearly \$700,000 in nine projects to address the most critical needs for breast health and breast cancer in its 41-county service area.

Each year in central Indiana, approximately 2,065 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed and 420 women or men will die from breast cancer. Based on the needs of local communities, Komen Central Indiana developed two grant programs aimed at saving lives: the [Education and Linkage to Care Program](#) and the [Continuum of Care Navigation Program](#). These programs fund strategies proven to educate and provide access to healthcare services and to guide breast cancer patients through treatment.

“Last fall, Susan G. Komen announced a bold goal to reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in the U.S. by year 2026,” said Natalie Sutton, executive director of Komen Central Indiana. “We know that these two programs move us closer to that bold goal and save more lives close to home.”

Since 1992, Komen Central Indiana has invested more than \$20 million in Community Impact Grants, providing leadership and direction within the community to meet the most critical needs and save lives.

These grants were awarded to community programs with the ability to make the greatest impact and to meet the greatest needs, as determined by an independent review panel.

### **Education and Linkage to Care Program**

Four local programs were chosen to partner with Komen Central Indiana to deliver evidence-based education regarding breast health. These investments will help



community members gain a better understanding of their personal risk of breast cancer, breast health services available through their insurance plan or community resources, appropriate timing of screenings and how to access care without insurance or with limited coverage. These organizations, with support from Komen Central Indiana, also provide referrals for screening and diagnostic tests for their patients, including those who are at a higher risk of developing breast cancer in their lifetime.

The 2017 grant recipients for education and linkage to care programs are:

- **Hancock Regional Hospital:** Andis Women's Clinic. *Hancock, Henry, Marion, Rush, Shelby counties.*
- **Interlocal Community Action Program (ICAP):** ICAP Breast Health Education and Assistance Program. *Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Madison, Rush, Wayne counties.*
- **Little Red Door Cancer Agency:** Breast Health Education and Access to Care. Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Shelby counties.
- **YWCA of Greater Lafayette:** YWCA Women's Cancer Program. Boone, Clay, Clinton, Fountain, Greene, Hamilton, Howard, Montgomery, Parke, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vermillion, Vigo, Warren counties.

### **Continuum of Care Navigation Program**

Five local programs were selected to partner with Komen Central Indiana to guide patients through the breast cancer continuum of care from the point of diagnosis forward and to help breast cancer patients overcome barriers. The goal of Komen Central Indiana's patient navigation program is to ensure quality and timely access to treatment for all breast cancer patients living in central Indiana. Navigators funded through this program will lead breast cancer patients to services tailored to individual needs, including but not limited to transportation, nutrition, childcare, interpreter services, treatment assistance, and psychosocial support.

The 2017 grant recipients for continuum of care navigation programs are:

- **Columbus Regional Health:** Mammography Assistance Program Nurse Navigator. *Bartholomew, Brown, Johnson counties.*
- **Eskenazi Health:** EMBRACE Patient Navigation. *Marion County.*



- **Little Red Door:** Breast Cancer Assistance Program (BCAP). *Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Shelby counties.*
- **Methodist Health Foundation – IU Health Cancer Centers:** Nurse Navigation Program for Breast Cancer. *Morgan County.*
- **YWCA of Greater Lafayette:** YWCA Women’s Cancer Program. *Boone, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Warren counties.*

“Our Komen Central Indiana grants allow us to provide 15 Indiana counties with access to life-saving services such as mammograms, diagnostic procedures, and navigation through treatment for breast cancer for patients with the greatest need,” said Heidi Kauffman, director of YWCA Women’s Cancer Program. “Our patient navigation program is focused on reducing barriers to treatment and quality of life following a breast cancer diagnosis. As one example, this year we are thrilled Komen Central Indiana dollars will allow us to help women purchase lymphedema products, which are not covered by insurance and are needed by many women as a result of mastectomy surgery.”

A resident living in Komen Central Indiana’s 41-county service area and in need of breast health assistance can contact Komen Central Indiana or the nearest organization listed above to identify local resources. Throughout 2017, Komen Central Indiana’s dollars will support these programs providing critical help for women, men and families in need.

### **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. For more information, call 317-638-2873 or visit [komencentralindiana.org](http://komencentralindiana.org). Connect with us on Facebook at [facebook.com/komencentralindiana](https://www.facebook.com/komencentralindiana) and Twitter [@KomenCentralIN](https://twitter.com/KomenCentralIN).

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