



# Worship in Pink



Artwork designed by Wanda Walden and provided by Legacy Emanuel Medical Center Foundation

## About Worship in Pink

Worship in Pink began in 2010 as Pink Sunday, an information event held in the atrium of Legacy Emanuel Hospital on an afternoon in October. This free public event was spearheaded by PassinArt: A Theater Company, with a mini-grant from Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington, in order to reach Portland's Black / African American community. Kathy Kendrix, of Empowerment Group, joined PassinArt: A Theater Company in organizing the event, and participants included local churches and community members. Pink Sunday involved a number of community booths and breast cancer information, as well as a live program.

In 2011, Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington awarded Legacy Health a community grant to expand upon Pink Sunday in the Black / African American faith-based community, and Worship in Pink was born. Churches in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, and Clark Counties were recruited to hold activities with their congregations, on a weekend in October, centered on the importance of early detection and screening in detecting breast cancer. Over the next few years, with funding from Komen, volunteer Ambassadors were trained by Legacy and Komen on the breast health message and then shared this information with their congregations during their activities, and churches of all demographics were invited to participate.

In 2015, Worship in Pink was internalized as a mission program of Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington, and activities were expanded to fill the entire month of October. In addition to the traditional Worship in Pink program, six churches, with predominantly Black / African American congregations, were asked to participate as African American Initiative Pilot Program Churches. The volunteer Ambassadors at these churches helped to get screened their congregants who had self-selected for assistance in receiving a mammogram.

As we embark on the 2017 program, we are excited about the changes we have seen over the past couple of years, including giving churches the option to choose between three levels of participation – African American Initiative Pilot Church, Partner Church, or Breast Health Information Only, with African American Initiative Pilot Church Ambassadors receiving additional training on how to assist participants in receiving a mammogram. We also continue to improve the Passport to Breast Health, which, in 2015, replaced the Promise Card, including relevant breast health information as well as an opportunity for us to collect demographic information, which will aid us in our African American Initiative efforts, and for participants to self-select for assistance in getting a mammogram. And, we have the popular Worship in Pink fan, which now includes an important breast health message, and the Worship in Pink bookmark.