



## **Spirit Mountain Community Fund Awards Komen Oregon and SW Washington a \$41,500 Grant for Treatment Access**

*May 9, 2016, Portland, Oregon* – Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington recently received a generous \$41,500 grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. This donation is designated for Komen’s Access to Treatment Program to help those facing financial challenges regarding breast cancer treatment.

Many women and men are confronted with significant barriers to breast cancer treatment including geography, language differences, and financial challenges to receiving treatment (transportation, food, lodging, and more). Ann Berryman, Director of Communications and Development at Komen Oregon and SW Washington, says, “On top of fighting a this disease, survivors often experience a loss of income at the same time while undergoing treatment. Some breast cancer patients report needing to choose between keeping their lights on and food on the table versus paying for gas to complete their cancer treatment. This grant allows survivors freedom from making that tough choice.”

Each week, 63 people are diagnosed with breast cancer, and 11 die in Oregon and SW Washington. As stated in Susan G. Komen’s 2015 Community Profile, the overall breast cancer incidence rate in Oregon and Southwest Washington is 6% higher than the national rate.

This region has a highly rural population that not only has to drive long distances to services, but who also are likely to be at an economic disadvantage. The U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (ACS) for 2007-2011 shows that one third of the people in the service area have an income that is at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In addition, according to a 2009 study of mammography sites by Oregon Health and Science University, with the exception of the more urban areas along the I-5 corridor, women in most counties in Oregon and SW Washington need to drive 30-60 minutes, or more, to access breast cancer treatment services.

Overall, Komen has made measurable progress in the effort to end breast cancer deaths in the United States. Five-year breast cancer survival rates have increased dramatically from 74% in 1982 to 99% today. The annual rate of breast cancer deaths has plummeted by 33% since 1990

**About Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington**

In the last 25 years, the local organization has funneled nearly \$19.8 million into programs that prioritize the importance of improving and building on the quality of life for survivors, emphasize the value of early detection and screenings, as well as financial assistance for access to treatment. Another \$11.9 million has been dedicated to local cutting edge research.

**About Susan G. Komen**

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. Nationally, since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded \$2.6 billion in funding to research, screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs serving millions of people in more than 30 countries worldwide. More information is available at [KomenOregon.org](http://KomenOregon.org).

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