



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUSAN G. KOMEN® OREGON AND SW WASHINGTON HONORS FOREVER FIGHTERS
ON NATIONAL METASTATIC BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY (October 13th)**

Portland, OR – October 11, 2017 – Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington announced today that Governor Kate Brown has officially proclaimed Friday, October 13th, 2017 Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day in Oregon and encourages all Oregonians to join in this observance.

Metastatic breast cancer is breast cancer that has spread beyond the breast to other organs in the body (most often to the bones, lungs, liver, or brain). Some women have metastatic breast cancer when they are first diagnosed, which accounts for only about 6% of diagnoses in the US. More commonly, metastatic breast cancer arises months or years after a person has completed treatment for early (stage 0) or locally advanced (stage I, II, or III) breast cancer. Thousands of families across Oregon are affected by Stage IV metastatic breast cancer. Unfortunately, it cannot be cured.

“While no cure currently exists for metastatic breast cancer, extensive research efforts are underway” said Andrew Asato, CEO of Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington. “Research and supporting individuals living with the disease are why it is so important to continue to raise money right here in our area. We have a goal of reducing the number of deaths from breast cancer by 50% by 2026. We need your help to get - there”.

In the US, today, it is estimated that more than 154,000 people are living with metastatic breast cancer. Metastatic disease is responsible for almost all of the nation’s 40,000 annual breast cancer deaths. In Oregon, it is estimated that more than 520 will die of breast cancer this year, nearly all due to metastatic breast cancer.

Ann Berryman, Director of Development and Communications explained “We call women and men living with metastatic breast cancer “Forever Fighters” because that’s what they are. Much of breast cancer awareness focusses on surviving. It is important to remember and talk about metastatic disease, as well as to honor those individuals who will be in treatment for breast cancer for the rest of their lives and will likely die from the disease. Governor Brown’s Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day proclamation helps begin that conversation.”

Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington has several events planned throughout the month of October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, as well as a quarterly dinner series designed for metastatic breast cancer patients. Please visit www.komenoregon.org for a calendar of community events. Donations can be made at events and online.

About Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington

In the last 25 years, the local organization has funneled nearly \$19.5 million into programs that prioritize the importance of improving and building on the quality of life for survivors and forever fighters, emphasize the value of early detection and screenings, as well as financial assistance for access to treatment. Another \$12.2 million has been dedicated to local cutting-edge research.

About Susan G. Komen®

Susan G. Komen is the world’s largest breast cancer organization outside of the federal government, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than \$956 million in research and provided more than \$2.1 billion in funding to screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support

programs. Komen has worked in more than 60 countries worldwide. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. Visit komen.org or call 1-877 GO KOMEN. Connect with us on social at ww5.komen.org/social

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Metastatic Breast Cancer Talking Points

- It is estimated that at least 154,000 people in the US have metastatic breast cancer.
- Some women have metastatic breast cancer when they are first diagnosed, however this is not common in the US. More commonly, metastatic breast cancer arises months or years after a person has completed treatment for early (stage 0) or locally advanced (stage I, II, or III) breast cancer.
- The risk of metastasis after breast cancer treatment varies from person to person. It depends greatly on the biology of the tumor, the stage at the time of original diagnosis, and the treatments for the original cancer.
- Metastatic breast cancer affects all races and socioeconomic classes. Although white women see the greatest incidence of breast cancer, the mortality rate for African-American women with breast cancer is higher than in white women, and breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death for Hispanic women.
- As hard as it may be to hear, metastatic breast cancer cannot be cured. However, this does not mean that it cannot be treated. Treatment of metastatic breast cancer focuses on length and quality of life.
- Of the women who have metastatic breast cancer in the US today, it's estimated that 34% have lived at least 5 years since being diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. Modern treatments continue to improve survival for women diagnosed today. In fact, some women may live 10 or more years beyond diagnosis.