

KOMEN

Impact Report

2023

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komen® 



Susan G. Komen®

Four decades ago, a promise between two sisters launched the beginning of a global movement to end breast cancer forever. What started as a promise continues today, driving Susan G. Komen to search for tomorrow's cures. We now understand even more about the biology of breast cancer and are translating this knowledge into better approaches to treatment, early detection and risk reduction.

Komen understands breast cancer is not just one disease but a family of diseases, and everyone has a unique genetic blueprint that determines how they (and their tumors) will respond to treatment. We drive research that will advance personalized treatments and improve outcomes for all. And while breast cancer mortality has decreased by an overall 43% from 1989-2020, we still have work to do.

We understand certain populations experience different outcomes in breast cancer, and we work tirelessly to identify inequities and break down barriers that lead to health disparities in these communities. We do this through our comprehensive, 360-degree approach to fighting this disease across all fronts. Komen is funding lifesaving research, advocating for compassionate public policy, providing access to high-quality care and financial assistance, and ensuring patients are supported every step of the way.

Thank you to our corporate partners, donors and thousands of individual advocates, volunteers and fundraisers who help us save lives. Our mission is built on a promise, and our work is not yet done.

We will never give up.



TOGETHER

we've made monumental progress:

- Through early detection and effective treatments, we've **helped reduce the breast cancer mortality rate in the U.S. by 43% since 1989.**
- We've **invested nearly \$1.1 billion in research**, leading to new ways to prevent, diagnose and better treat breast cancer.
- We've invested **more than \$15 million in community health programs** in the last year alone to ensure people get the help they need to understand the disease, access screening and diagnostic exams, remove barriers to care and receive critical support.

Yet despite all of our momentum:

- Worldwide, breast cancer is **still the most common cancer in women** and the leading cause of cancer death among women.
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S. and the **second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the U.S.**
- **Black women in the U.S. are about 40% more likely to die of breast cancer** than white women and have a lower five-year relative breast cancer survival rate compared to white women.
- **Hispanic and Latina women are more likely to be diagnosed** with breast cancer later than white women.
- About **every two minutes**, somewhere in the U.S., a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.
- **More than an estimated 168,000 people** in the U.S. are living with metastatic breast cancer (MBC), which is the most advanced stage of breast cancer.
- **Nearly 44,000 people in the U.S. are expected to die** from breast cancer this year alone.



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A lot can change in 40 years.

To think, when Susan G. Komen was founded only 40 years ago, many women experienced breast cancer silently and alone. Detection was made solely by feeling for breast lumps. Almost everyone diagnosed underwent a mastectomy.

Today, thanks to you — our supporters worldwide — the breast cancer experience is remarkably different. Together, we ensure that no one has to face breast cancer alone, that patient care is more personalized than ever, and that advances in research and technology continue to enhance the quality of life and chance of survival for all. In fact, thanks to countless discoveries and investments backed by our donors, Komen has helped reduce the breast cancer mortality rate by 43% since 1989.

And while we celebrated Komen's 40th anniversary in our last fiscal year, along with the incredible progress made since our founding, we remain grounded in the reality that we still have far to go before creating a world without breast cancer.

That's where you come in. We've only come this far by joining forces with dedicated people like you who share our spark and determination to save lives and end breast cancer for good.

IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR ALONE:

- We provided **more than 42,000 services through our direct patient support programs** that make up our Patient Care Center and provided financial assistance to more than 16,000 individuals, amounting to more than \$9 million in support.
- Komen-supported researchers teamed up to **discover new ways breast cancer metastasizes, helping to identify people at risk for recurrence and metastasis** — a crucial breakthrough needed to address the most deadly and aggressive forms of breast cancer.
- We broke down barriers in communities across the country by providing **more than 2,600 people with access to high-quality screening and diagnostic services**. And we're prioritizing public policy to enact bigger structural changes to improve access to affordable screening and diagnostic services to alleviate this burden.
- Our Stand for H.E.R. digital call-to-action campaign **drove Black women to connect with our Breast Care Helpline and other Komen resources** and was featured throughout 475 patient exam rooms in cities where breast health disparities are the greatest.

In our report, you'll learn more of what we've accomplished this past year, how you helped make it happen and, of course, what is yet to come.

As the saying goes, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." We may still have a long way to go to create a world without breast cancer; but together, we are going farther than ever before.



ED DANDRIDGE,
President, ScaleWith
Susan G. Komen Board Chair



PAULA SCHNEIDER,
President & CEO, Susan G. Komen





The Susan G. Komen Difference

Komen is the world's only breast cancer organization taking a comprehensive, 360-degree approach to fighting breast cancer across all fronts, supporting millions of people in the U.S. and worldwide.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST YEAR

We provided more than **42,000** services through the Patient Care Center, a **64%** increase year over year.

More than **3** million people received breast health and breast cancer education through educational programs and training courses from Komen.org.

We invested **\$19.3** million in **49** research grants supporting cutting-edge projects and interventions to eliminate breast cancer disparities.

More than **60** biomedical and computational scientists participated in Komen's first-ever Breast Cancer Hackathon Challenge.

We conducted **250** meetings at the federal level with congressional offices to advocate for policies that improve outcomes for patients.

Nearly **700** people received training through Komen's Patient Navigation Training Program, with curriculum designed to equip patient navigators with the skills and solutions to address the barriers to care that contribute to breast health inequities.

Our Strategic Imperatives

We are committed to addressing our two strategic imperatives to achieve our mission. Our four core approaches inform each other, allowing us to work collaboratively and more effectively to address these issues.

Conquer aggressive and deadly breast cancers to help people live longer, better lives.

Ensure all people get the care they need and achieve health equity.



Drive RESEARCH

Guided by world renowned experts, we evaluate and invest in science and technology that will provide the greatest benefit to patients.



Provide CARE

We serve as a trusted breast health care guide by providing evidence-based education, personalized support and connection to timely, high-quality care.



Take ACTION

We mobilize people to advocate for policies that protect patients, prioritize research and create lasting systemic changes to improve outcomes for all.



Unify COMMUNITY

We unite communities that are bonded by a common interest and come together to deliver a greater impact in ending breast cancer.

A photograph of two women sitting at a dark wooden table. On the left, a woman in a white lab coat is seen from the back, looking towards the other woman. On the right, a Black woman with her hair in a ponytail, wearing a pink cardigan over a grey t-shirt, is looking back at the woman in the lab coat. The background shows a sliding barn door and a window with blinds.

Health Equity

Our Commitment

An important part of what we do at Susan G. Komen is working to ensure all people get the care they need, so that ultimately, health equity is achieved — for everyone. Health equity at Komen means every person should have a just opportunity to be as healthy as possible, regardless of their cultural or demographic background. To underscore our commitment, we've embedded health equity into our strategic imperatives. It is the lens we use for every facet of our work and is reflected throughout this Impact Report, across multiple areas of Komen.

Advancing health equity at Komen means improving breast cancer outcomes for historically marginalized and under-resourced communities through strategies including research, education, community health, public policy and advocacy, and partnerships to deliver impactful and meaningful change. Each year, Komen will assess the needs of multiple populations to identify inequities and use our 360-degree approach to break down barriers that lead to health disparities.

Komen is committed to health equity for all and continues to serve multiple populations, including the Black community, Hispanic or Latino persons, Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, those who identify as LGBTQ+, and those from other marginalized and under-resourced communities, such as those living in rural areas. This population health approach helps equip Komen with a holistic view of the inequities and disparities in breast cancer outcomes and allows for tailored approaches that meet the specific needs of each population.

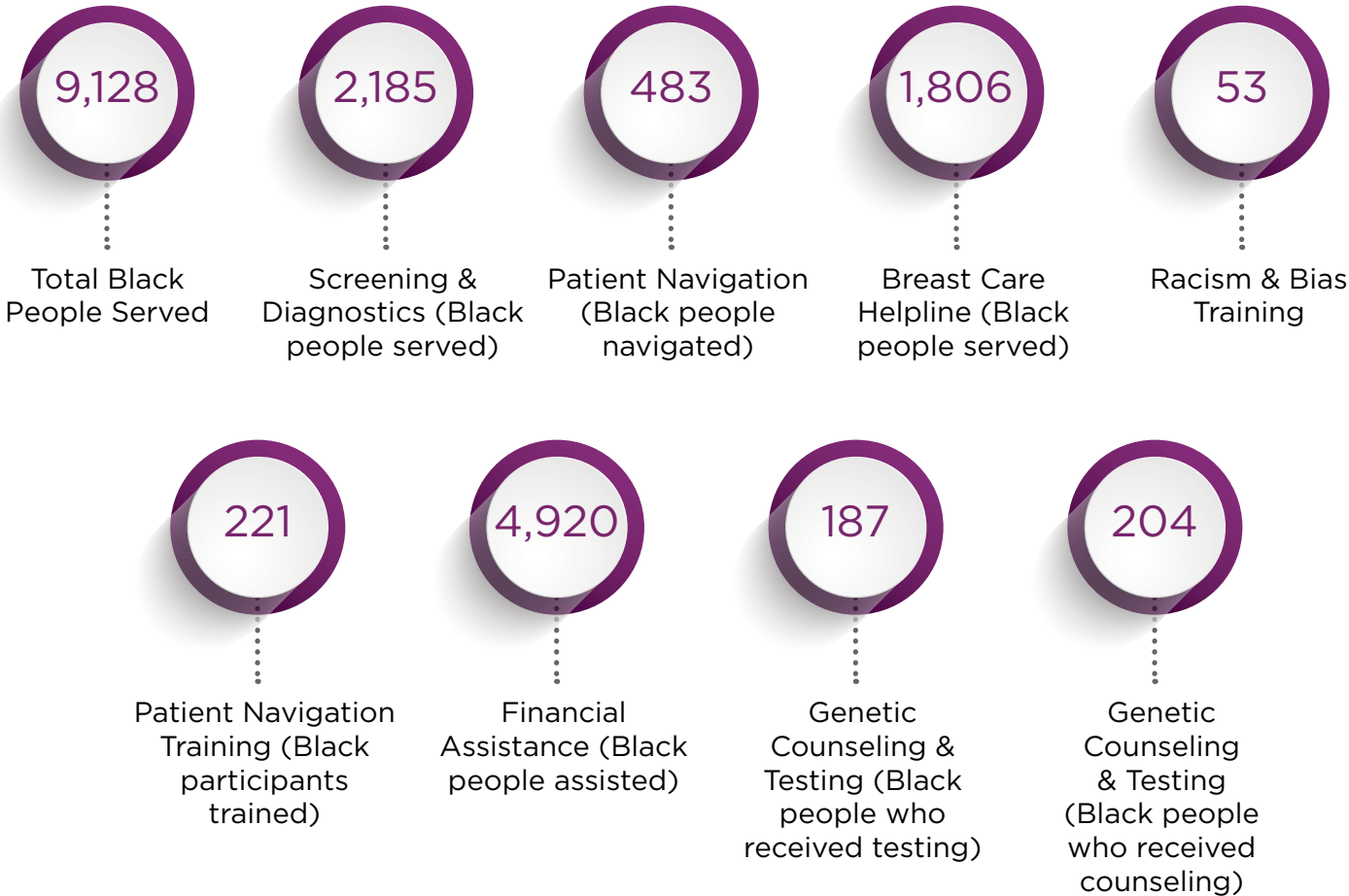
Stand For H.E.R.

A Health Equity Revolution

The Black community is one of the hardest hit populations in terms of breast health inequities. In response, Komen developed Stand for H.E.R. – a Health Equity Revolution. Stand for H.E.R. is Komen’s nationwide commitment to collaborating with Black communities, policymakers, researchers and other key allies to help create a world without inequities, where Black people have the same chances of surviving breast cancer as anyone else.

Through Stand for H.E.R., Komen seeks to break down the barriers that created these inequities for Black people through education that empowers; patient support that ensures connection to timely, high-quality care; workforce development that improves the diversity and cultural sensitivity of health care workers; research that is representative and benefits all; and through creation of policies that promote health equity. This program serves as the model approach for how Komen will address breast health inequities for other populations in the future.

By leveraging our 360-degree approach through Stand for H.E.R., over the last fiscal year, Komen has been able to advance health equity in the Black community in the following ways:



Health Equity

Parkland Health: Driving systemic change

In addition to our programmatic work, collaborations with our key partners also help us move the health equity needle and drive systemic change. Komen partnered with the American Society of Clinical Oncology to improve the quality of care and better serve Black breast cancer patients. Now in its second year, this collaboration, which includes seven participating oncology practices, has already developed and tested interventions that address breast health inequities.

Parkland Health in Dallas is a shining example of what's possible through this partnership. As part of the quality improvement program, Parkland developed interventions to help connect Black cancer patients to financial coverage and ultimately improved their access to care.

The overwhelming financial burden of cancer care is a huge barrier and a cause of financial toxicity for many patients, particularly for those who are uninsured and/or underinsured. Black cancer patients at Parkland Health are underinsured at a higher rate (34%) than other patients. In response, Parkland increased financial coverage for Black breast cancer patients, which included financial screenings before their doctor visits. **This intervention helped reduce the cancer-related financial toxicity that often interrupts treatment for these patients.**

Through pre-visit planning (PVP) for all patients scheduled in the breast cancer surgery clinic and revised workflows with Patient Financial Services, Parkland connected patients to medical coverage to help alleviate some of the financial burdens of cancer care. This, in turn, helped reduce the overall stress patients experience during their diagnosis and treatment.

“Every single thing the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) does is directed at helping our members develop and deliver an ever-higher quality of care. Komen has shared our drive and vision, and has been a remarkable and steady collaborator in this quest. Our work with Komen, funded through Conquer Cancer®, the ASCO Foundation, is bringing expert quality of care training, assessment and process improvement strategies and techniques to seven oncology practices in metropolitan areas to reduce breast cancer disparities in Black patients. We are proud to collaborate with Komen in this critically important area.”

CLIFFORD A. HUDIS, M.D., FACP, FASCO

Chief Executive Officer, American Society of Clinical Oncology
Executive Vice Chair, Conquer Cancer®, the ASCO Foundation

Parkland achieved the following outcomes through these pre-visit planning (PVP) interventions:

Increased percentage of all breast cancer patients screened for financial coverage via PVP

FROM 0% TO 38%

Increased percentage of Black breast cancer patients screened for financial coverage via PVP

FROM 0% TO 30%

Increased percentage of completed PVP calls for all patients

FROM 0% TO 48%

Increased percentage of completed PVP calls for Black patients

FROM 0% TO 47%

Increased percentage of Black patients seeing a financial counselor

FROM 2.9% TO 3.5%

eHealthcare
LEADERSHIP
AWARDS 2022

WINNER



MARKETING SUCCESS

The marketing of Stand for H.E.R. has also been successful in extending its reach into the Black community.

To date, digital messaging about the program was deployed in an average of 475 patient exam rooms and an average of 330 health care provider back offices in the 10 U.S. cities identified as having the greatest Black breast health disparities. During that six-month period, the patient-facing ad received nearly 8 million impressions or exposures to the ad based on the number of patient visits during that time period, and an average of 2,054 providers viewed the video in their back office.

Stand for H.E.R. patient messaging was so powerful that the patient-facing video about the program earned an eHealthcare Leader Silver Award in the category of Best Rich Media for a consumer disease-focused site, as well as eHealthcare Leader Distinction for the video in the category of Best Short Video Content – 2 Minutes or Less for a consumer disease-focused site.

To learn more about how Komen is advancing health equity in these and other communities, visit [komen.org/healthequity](https://www.komen.org/healthequity).



Research

Research is key to developing better, more effective treatments and to understanding why some cancers stop responding to treatment and spread.

Because of research, we know breast cancer is not just a single disease but many diseases unique to each individual. We know cancer cells are smart and cancer can find ways to escape the most effective treatments, and we are relentless in our search for new therapies that will save lives.

This year, we are investing in research that supports the development of precision therapies. We are also focused on research that will help eliminate breast cancer disparities and inequities by exploring their root causes and providing strategies to address them.

We have made great progress, but our work is not done. Now more than ever, we must continue our forward momentum by supporting research that will not only provide new ways to detect, diagnose and treat breast cancer, but also offer patients the priceless gift of hope.

FY23 Research Investment: \$19.3 million

More than

65%

focusing on the most deadly and aggressive breast cancers

Nearly

40%

addressing solutions to inequities in breast cancer

Investing in Research

CAREER CATALYST RESEARCH (CCR) GRANT RECIPIENTS

Komen's Career Catalyst Research (CCR) Grants provide promising early career researchers with funding that is critical to support their innovative projects. Through these awards, Komen seeks to support the next generation of leaders in breast cancer research. The goal of the FY23 CCR grants is to support outstanding research focused on two important aspects of precision medicine: the development of next generation-targeted therapies and the development of interventions to eliminate breast cancer health disparities.

Isaac Chan, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Texas Southwestern is using lymphocytes called natural killer cells that support breast cancer metastasis and reprogramming them to return to their original tumor-fighting activity. This study will advance the effectiveness of immunotherapies and help identify patients who would most benefit from these treatments, as well as influence strategies for future drugs that manipulate immune cells to fight tumors in MBC.

Shearwood McClelland, M.D., from Case Western University is testing how patient navigation impacts access to short-course radiation therapy (RT) for Black breast cancer patients and how financial toxicities influence RT adherence. The goal of this research is to demonstrate how patient navigation and short-course RT can alleviate financial burdens and help Black breast cancer patients complete their RT treatments. This work will also create a new educational tool for patient navigators that educates on the use of short-course RT to overcome existing barriers to care and improve treatment outcomes.

ASPIRE GRANTS

The new Komen ASPIRE (A Supplement to Promote Inclusion for Research Excellence) grants are intended to enhance the diversity of the breast cancer research workforce. ASPIRE funds provide supplemental award funding to established breast cancer scientists to support research trainees from communities historically minoritized and marginalized in research. Through these grants, Komen seeks to ensure a diverse group of highly trained scientists who reflect the communities we serve will emerge as the next generation of leaders in breast cancer research.

Matthew Brady, M.D., from the University of Chicago will serve as mentor and principal investigator to support doctoral student Briana Banks for this research, which will determine whether higher levels of a steroid hormone called glucocorticoid (GC) may increase the risk of breast cancer during critical times of development like puberty. Using preclinical models of breast cancer, they will identify how GC release affects the development of mammary gland ducts and determine whether use of a GC-blocking drug can reverse many of these changes that increase breast cancer risk.

FY23 RESEARCH DISCOVERIES

- **Komen grantee Sean Fanning, Ph.D., and colleagues** published a study that showed how estrogen receptor mutations may cause hormone therapy resistance for MBC patients. This research is vital to developing MBC treatments that will improve patient survival.
- **Komen Scientific Advisory Board member Kornelia Polyak, M.D., Ph.D., and Komen Scholar Rulla Tamimi, Sc.D.,** joined other colleagues in publishing a study that identified a drug that prevented breast cancer in preclinical models. This is a promising step forward in making breast cancer prevention in humans a possibility.
- **New findings from Komen grantee Wen Jiang, M.D., Ph.D.,** showed how nanotechnology can be used to improve the immune system's response to solid tumors, making them receptive to immunotherapy for breast cancer.
- **A first-of-its-kind study led by Komen Chief Scientific Advisor Ann Partridge, M.D., M.P.H.,** found it is safe for young breast cancer survivors to pause endocrine therapy to have a baby. There was no difference in breast cancer recurrence compared to those who did not pause treatment, and women in the trial went on to have healthy pregnancies and babies.
- **Komen Scholars Ben Ho Park, M.D., Ph.D.; Nikhil Wagle, M.D.; Jason Carroll, Ph.D. and Steffi Oesterreich, Ph.D.;** along with **Komen Scientific Advisory Board member Adrian Lee, Ph.D., and other colleagues,** published work that provides evidence for a new role of estrogen receptor mutations in breast cancer. They found that estrogen receptor mutations may drive development of metastasis. This study lays the groundwork for developing new treatment approaches against one-third of metastatic breast cancers with estrogen receptor mutations.
- **Komen Career Catalyst researcher Neil Vasan, M.D., Ph.D.,** published a study that identified types of breast cancer that contain multiple mutations in the PIK3CA gene. These findings may help pinpoint tumors that best respond to PI3K inhibitor therapy.

RESEARCH DISCOVERIES IN THE PIPELINE

- More than **3,100** breast cancer research products (drugs, biomarkers, devices, etc.).
- Over **700** discoveries focused on metastatic breast cancer.
- More than **1,200** potential treatments, with over **400** focused on metastatic breast cancer.
- Nearly **400** strategies to reduce breast cancer disparities.

Driving Research

KOMEN CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH & EVALUATION

The Komen Center for Applied Research launched a qualitative research study to identify the needs and barriers MBC patients face that can be addressed through patient navigation. The study also examines how patient navigation training programs can be adapted to better prepare navigators to effectively navigate MBC patients.

The Health Information & Evaluation team, led by Kari Wojtanik, Ph.D., Komen Senior Director of Health Information & Evaluation, and Amy Dworkin, Ph.D., Komen Senior Manager of Research Evaluation, published their work on developing a tracking system to monitor the progress of Komen-funded research products and to measure the potential impact on patients more directly. This tracking system will help Komen better communicate the impact of Komen-funded research to patients, donors, partners and the public, and can be a model for other organizations to measure the impact of research funding.

BREAST CANCER BREAKTHROUGHS SERIES

Komen launched the first installment of a new educational series called **Breast Cancer Breakthroughs in February 2023**. This series aims to answer the critical question of “what’s next?” for the breast cancer community. By joining forces with leading experts in the field, patient advocates and industry partners, this series highlights new breakthroughs in treatments and technologies that are coming soon for breast cancer patients in a compelling, relatable format. The first installment highlighted major findings from the 2022 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, the largest annual breast cancer research conference. New episodes are released every two months. Through this series, Komen aims to serve as a trusted source to inform patients and caregivers about the developing breast cancer treatments of tomorrow.

KOMEN’S FIRST BREAST CANCER HACKATHON CHALLENGE

Komen’s first Breast Cancer Hackathon Challenge took place March 3-5, 2023, at the Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics at UT Southwestern (UTSW) in Dallas, Texas. The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including students, patient advocates, oncologists, breast cancer researchers and data scientists, who were divided into nine teams, working together and using big data to address challenge questions in the field of breast cancer. Following team presentations to a panel of judges, awards were given to the top three teams. A surprise award was given by the patient advocates to the team that best included the patient perspective in developing their solution. The hackathon was conducted in partnership with the UTSW Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics and the UTSW Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, with generous support from Lyda Hill Philanthropies.



2022 BRINKER AWARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC DISTINCTION

- Komen Scholar alumnus Geoffrey M. Wahl, Ph.D., received the Komen Brinker Award for Basic Science for his contributions to the field of cancer genetics, including the mechanisms of drug resistance and genome stability. His body of work and the techniques he pioneered have enabled discoveries across many disciplines and paved the way for future discoveries in breast cancer research and treatment.
- Norman Wolmark, M.D., FACS, FRCSC, received the Komen Brinker Award for Clinical Research for his innovative contributions to patient care, including more effective and less invasive options for breast cancer treatment, and for shifting the breast cancer research field to a preventive, more personalized standard of care.

Care

Patient Care Center

Widespread barriers to care contribute to poor outcomes and death from breast cancer. These barriers include socioeconomic factors, a lack of access to care and information, discrimination in health care, quality of care and experience in the health care system, and individual health. Susan G. Komen's Patient Care Center (PCC) provides individualized care to help ensure the best possible outcomes for every person in need of support throughout their breast cancer journey.

Our team of culturally responsive patient navigators provided more than 42,000 services to over 30,000 people this year, including:

- Answers to questions about breast cancer risk.
- Emotional support and guidance in addressing feelings and other concerns.
- Information about breast cancer screening, treatment options, clinical trials, support resources, and genetic counseling and testing.
- Access to no-cost screening mammograms and diagnostic services based on income eligibility.
- Financial assistance for income-eligible breast cancer patients in treatment or living with MBC.
- Navigating the health care system, including communicating with health care providers, understanding treatment options and accessing support services.

The Komen PCC team is made up of more than 50 highly skilled professionals who are as diverse as those we serve. Our caring and compassionate team includes oncology social workers, bilingual specialists, subject matter experts and breast cancer survivors from around the country who understand that everyone's health care journey is unique, thus providing individualized care to ensure the best possible outcomes for each person.



PATIENT CARE CENTER IMPACT

- The Komen Patient Care Center provided **more than 42,000 services** in FY23 (a 64% year-over-year growth from FY22).
- **More than 24,000 services** were provided through the Breast Care Helpline, including emotional support, access to resources and clinical trials information.
- Komen's Financial Assistance showed tremendous growth this year, **servicing 16,104 people** (74% growth over last year) and providing **more than \$9 million** in financial assistance for the expenses of daily living for people in breast cancer treatment or living with MBC.
- Komen's patient navigators served **more than 1,000 people** and worked to **address more than 3,000 barriers** to care to keep people in the continuum of care.
- Komen's screening and diagnostics program provided access to screening and **diagnostic services for more than 3,000 people**.

PATIENT NAVIGATION

Patient navigators help guide patients through a confusing health care system by identifying and removing barriers to high-quality care. They provide individualized assistance to patients and their caregivers, working as part of the care team to guide people through the full continuum of care, from their first mammogram, to after they learn of a suspicious finding during screening, as they go through breast cancer treatment, or as they live with MBC. Evidence has shown patient navigation is effective in helping people receive more timely diagnostic resolution after a breast cancer screening abnormality, initiate and receive proper treatment sooner, and improve quality of life after a breast cancer diagnosis. Navigation addresses the underlying drivers of health to improve health equity and outcomes.

Komen's Patient Navigators:

- Identify barriers to care and initiate strategies to address and resolve them.
- Provide emotional support.
- Research and facilitate access to community resources.
- Provide evidence-based information.
- Support provider communication and shared decision-making.
- Make referrals to clinical providers.

"Patient navigation programs, which Komen was instrumental in first developing, still need to be much more widespread than they are. It's made me aware of how important patient navigation is." - Julie Palmer, Sc.D., M.P.H., Komen Scholar

PATIENT NAVIGATION TRAINING PROGRAM

Komen's Patient Navigation Training Program is a workforce development program that provides high-quality training aimed at increasing the number and diversity of patient navigators who are equipped to deliver culturally responsive navigation services. This free, online program is designed to enhance patient navigators' professional skills, while also providing them with a peer network and support system.

Komen prioritizes the recruitment of navigator trainees from diverse backgrounds and trains all navigators to assist and remove barriers to care for patients of varying backgrounds, cultures, races and ethnicities living in underserved communities.

The Komen curriculum is comprehensive, from Patient Navigation 101 to in-depth responsive courses that meet the needs of patient navigators today, such as overcoming racism and bias for Black patients. Interactive events range from one-on-one networking to panel discussions that build the skills of navigators in motivational interviewing, patient advocacy and policy work, navigating historically marginalized populations, genetic counseling and testing, and more.

Upon completion of the program, participants receive a certificate and are inducted into the Navigation Nation Community, where they stay connected to Komen for continuing education and to each other. Nearly 700 people have participated in the training so far.

As the marquee event of the training program, the Navigation Nation Summit brings together patient navigators from around the country for a free, virtual half-day summit in September. The summit provides participants the opportunity to share best practices and resources through presentations and interactive panel discussions, all designed to equip navigators with the tools they need to empower patients to overcome barriers to care that cause inequities. The 2022 inaugural summit reached more than 330 participants.

"I am honored that this program was created so that I, as a Black woman, can assist other fellow Black women in receiving adequate cancer care." - Patient Navigation Training Program participant

"It's so important to quantify the value of navigation. This is just amazing. It takes a village to make the changes needed in all our communities." - Patient Navigation Training Program participant

"Knowing the history of medicine and how we were treated as patients, I pray that everyone who had the opportunity to see the training will think of ways to improve the health system for people of color." - Patient Navigation Training Program participant

"Thank you for sharing the knowledge. This is very motivating and encouraging to all of us. You make us feel valued as a patient navigator." - Patient Navigation Training Program participant



Education

About Breast Cancer (ABCs)

The About Breast Cancer (ABCs) pages on Komen.org provide unbiased, comprehensive, up-to-date and accurate evidence-based breast cancer information in a straightforward, easy-to-read style. Our core breast cancer content is safe, accurate, current, consistent and based on scientific evidence. Breast cancer information is presented along the continuum of care and is meant to serve as a resource for people as they make personal breast care decisions with their health care providers and as they advocate for others.

The information on Komen.org comes from human studies published in reputable peer-reviewed journals, as well as from clinical practice guidelines, such as the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Harvard Medical School faculty and Komen Scholars provide technical and medical expertise in their areas of study or practice, and patient advocates review content to ensure the patient voice is heard. Komen's educational resources are developed, adapted and updated according to established processes consistent with public health models to ensure they are written in plain language, are culturally responsive and designed to "speak" to consumers.

Education

Worship in Pink

Worship in Pink is a grassroots effort developed by Komen that amplifies the conversation about breast health within faith-based organizations, particularly those serving Black, Hispanic and Latino communities. Many people in these communities of focus hold misconceptions about breast cancer, have had negative experiences obtaining medical care or are not aware of the resources currently available through Komen. Places of worship inspire community outreach and provide a sense of inherent trust and support between members. By leveraging faith-based organizations, Worship in Pink helps improve health outcomes in these communities by increasing the use of mammography, increasing knowledge about breast cancer, improving screening behavior and readiness to change, and reducing the risk associated with breast cancer and its symptoms.

This year, Worship in Pink expanded its reach in Houston, Texas, partnering with Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, a prominent predominantly Black church, and MD Anderson Cancer Center. The program provided congregation and community members with access to on-site genetic counseling and testing, which has been identified as a barrier to care for Black people. This unique program also empowers congregation and community members to learn about breast cancer risk factors and the importance of understanding their family's health history.

As a part of the Worship in Pink Houston pilot program, 84 people were screened to determine if they were at high risk for breast cancer. More than half (48 people or 57%) were deemed to be at high risk, and 36 people went on to have genetic testing. Before the event, only four participants had ever been offered genetic counseling or testing services. As a result of the pilot program, 88% of those who completed a post-event survey agreed the workshop helped improve their feelings about its importance, 82% felt more confident in seeking genetic services and 94% planned to talk with family members about their family's health history.



“The workshop gave me some very good information and to give to my daughters as well, and it also taught me how to know my family history.”

Worship In Pink
Ambassador



MBC Impact Series

Komen's MBC Impact Series offers a safe and collaborative space for people living with MBC and their loved ones to obtain accurate, evidence-based information related to MBC and discover practical resources to help make decisions for improved physical and emotional health. Those living with MBC may feel out of place within the larger breast cancer conversation, which tends to focus on the value of screening and the high survivorship rates for early-stage breast cancer. People living with MBC have different social, personal and quality of life struggles and seek community with other MBC patients. They face difficult and unique decisions and challenges when it comes to treatment and management of their disease, and they seek the most up-to-date information about new treatments.

Komen's MBC Impact Series offers approximately 12 webinars per year on innovative research, clinical trials and other treatment advances, financial challenges, wellness, recent updates in MBC public policy and patient advocacy, and other topics. For those who cannot attend the live virtual sessions, Komen offers on-demand videos of past events available to anyone on the MBC Impact Series website in English and in Spanish. In-person MBC Impact Series conferences will return in 2023 following a hiatus due to COVID-19.

The MBC Impact Series also offers regular newsletters and quarterly Wellness Wednesday videos focused on quality of life and overall wellness topics. Videos are posted to Komen's social media and YouTube channels.

Action

The Center for Public Policy is a cornerstone of our mission. Komen believes sound policy and advocacy, coupled with scientific progress and patient support services designed to overcome barriers to care, will help us end breast cancer deaths. Every two years, the Center for Public Policy identifies the public policy issue areas where Komen's voice can provide the greatest potential for achieving our mission.

POLICY PRIORITIES 2021-2022:

ACCELERATE RESEARCH

Expand government funding for breast cancer research and support increased education, utilization of and access to clinical trials for all patient populations.

ENSURE ACCESS

Protect access to affordable, high-quality health care for all patients and ensure continued access to Medicaid coverage without burdensome restrictions.

ALLEVIATE PATIENT BURDEN

Support policies that lower out-of-pocket costs, protect patients from financial ruin and reduce the red tape around vital aspects of care for breast cancer patients.

Komen believes all people deserve equitable access to high-quality breast health care no matter their age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, cancer stage or socio-economic status. Our overarching advocacy work advances our goal of achieving health equity for all.

FEDERAL POLICY & ADVOCACY

In the past year, Komen's Center for Public Policy deepened relationships with the White House and Administration, expanding our regulatory advocacy engagement and leading legislative efforts to increase affordable access to needed breast imaging for all patient populations and remove barriers to breast health services.

Komen supported more than 55 bills at the federal level that would expand access and remove barriers for the breast cancer community, including:

- **The Access to Breast Cancer Diagnosis (ABCD) Act**, which would eliminate financial barriers that prevent women from getting diagnostic imaging tests.
- **The SCREENS For Cancer Act**, which would reauthorize a critical program – the **National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP)** – that provides access to breast cancer screening and diagnostic services for low-income, uninsured or underinsured people.
- **The Find it Early Act**, which would boost early detection of breast cancer by requiring health insurance payment for screening and diagnostic breast imaging exams.
- **The Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) Access to Care Act**, which would remove the combined 29-month waiting periods for those living with MBC to receive Social Security and Medicare benefits.



In December, Congress reached agreement on an omnibus and Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) appropriations package. The legislation provides funding for priority programs, including:

- The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) received an increase of \$3 million and will receive \$200 million in FY23.
- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is slated to receive \$47.5 billion, an increase of \$2.5 billion above the 2022 enacted level.
- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) budget was increased from \$6.9 billion in 2022 to \$7.3 billion in 2023.
- The Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) saw a modest increase and will be funded at \$1.5 billion.
- The Breast Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense (DoD) was level funded at \$150 million.

The package contains other important policies to help the breast cancer community, including:

- The Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings (PALS) Act, which ensures annual screening mammograms will remain covered by insurance without cost-sharing requirements for women starting at age 40.
- The Lymphedema Treatment Act, which creates a new benefit category in Medicare for custom-fitted lymphedema compression garments and other approved items prescribed by a doctor or other health care provider starting in 2024.
- Language encouraging the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to examine opportunities to increase utilization of genetic counseling and testing for breast cancer in Black women.
- Provisions intended to improve clinical trial diversity, which encourages manufacturers to create diversity action plans and reduce barriers known to keep certain racial and ethnic groups, older adults, rural residents, and those with limited incomes from being appropriately included.



Policy and Advocacy

Federal Advocacy Events

The Center for Public Policy regularly hosts events that allow breast cancer advocates to engage with lawmakers and their staff on pressing state and federal policy needs. These events are designed to ensure our advocates and key partners gain a comprehensive understanding of the most pressing breast cancer-related policy issues and are prepared to conduct outreach and education with lawmakers.

Komen's annual Advocacy Summit took place in April 2022 and is Komen's largest event focused on federal policy, with more than 700 advocate participants covering 41 states. After completing two days of training, attendees held more than 200 meetings with congressional offices, calling on their members of Congress to support legislation to improve the lives of the breast cancer community. In addition to the in-person meetings, our Advocacy Insiders took action virtually, sending nearly 2,500 emails to Congress.

In October 2022, Komen turned awareness into action and hosted our first targeted lobby day event focused on MBC. Nearly 250 advocates across the country called on Congress to pass the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (H.R. 3183/S.1312). Komen advocates held more than 30 in-person meetings with congressional offices. In conjunction with this event, a virtual day of action amplified the message with nearly 250 people taking action online, resulting in more than 700 emails sent to members of Congress.

Policy and Advocacy

State Policy and Advocacy

Komen's Center for Public Policy worked with state legislators in 15 states to introduce Komen-led legislation in support of our policy priorities, with six pieces of legislation being signed into law. The legislation focused on three main areas:

- Diagnostic and Supplemental Imaging, which eliminates patient cost-sharing for medically necessary breast imaging. This was introduced in California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina and Oklahoma.
- Metastatic Step Therapy, which prohibits step therapy protocols for those living with MBC. Legislation was introduced in Iowa and Wisconsin.
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program advocacy to ensure maintained or increased funding for programs to provide breast screening services for women without insurance, with less insurance and with lower incomes. Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Jersey legislatures introduced policies to increase funding for their screening programs.

In addition to our Komen-led legislation, we also supported coalition efforts focused primarily on patient access to treatments and services without impediments. This year, we supported legislation in 25 states, with 16 of those bills becoming laws.

STATE SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS

Illinois: During the 2022 Illinois legislative session, Komen worked with Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel, Sen. Laura Ellman, Rep. Ann Williams and Rep. La Shawn Ford to introduce and pass legislation that provides additional funds to the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. This critical funding will provide patient navigation for the communities with the highest mortality rates.

Georgia: During the 2022 Georgia legislative session, Komen worked with Sen. Sheila McNeill, Sen. Michael Rhett and Rep. Darlene Taylor to introduce and pass legislation to eliminate the out-of-pocket costs for medically necessary diagnostic breast imaging.

Maine: Susan G. Komen's Center for Public Policy served as the lead of a coalition of patient advocacy organizations in 2022 to introduce and pass legislation, sponsored by Sen. Heather Sanborn, that would ensure patients continue to receive full benefit from vital copay assistance programs toward their cost sharing requirements.

Oklahoma: Komen worked with Rep. Melissa Provenzano and Sen. Barbara Stanley to introduce and pass legislation that would eliminate barriers for patients requiring medically necessary diagnostic breast imaging in Oklahoma.

Komen expanded its grassroots base this year to more than 108,000 Advocacy Insiders representing all 50 states. More than 6,400 new advocates were added this year, taking nearly 19,000 actions and sending nearly 21,000 emails to lawmakers in 2022.

Our Advocacy Ambassador Program (AAP) grew to more than 300 advocates, representing nearly half of all congressional districts. The AAP trains volunteers who serve as key leaders within their defined districts by responding to requests for state and federal action. These individuals participate in events, interact with policymakers and share their personal experiences with breast cancer to influence policy.

STATE ADVOCACY FORUMS

The Center for Public Policy held multiple virtual and in-person State Advocacy Forums across the country this year designed for people to learn more about issues impacting breast cancer patients in their states, connect with other advocates and help plan how we collectively work together to ensure breast cancer is a priority for state legislatures. State events were held in California, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin.

SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

This year, the Center for Public Policy expanded our Speak Truth to Power: Stand Up, Speak Up training series to Illinois. This event was the first opportunity for in-person attendance, as the program was initially piloted as a six-week virtual event during the COVID-19 pandemic. Speak Truth to Power: Stand Up, Speak Up provides a consistent, relevant and culturally responsive curriculum for state-level advocacy that aims to:

- **CREATE** a diverse community of advocates to address breast cancer health disparities and inequities within the Black community.
- **STRENGTHEN AND EMPOWER** participants to impact public policy around breast cancer disparities.
- **INCREASE PARTICIPATION** in decision-making that affects access to health care and health care choices.

In November, we convened health advocates from Black communities across Illinois to learn about the role of state-based public policy and advocacy in reducing breast cancer disparities and the importance of engaging in these efforts. During the day-and-a-half training, participants had a unique opportunity to explore how issues with health equity and social drivers of health manifest in Illinois and ways they could design solutions to address inequities.

Participants proposed priority solutions that could make the most impact in helping to address health disparities for Black women in Illinois. As a first step, the Center for Public Policy will work with legislators to introduce legislation to eliminate patient cost-sharing for genetic testing as well as recommended screening based on the findings from the testing.

Community

Komen inspires communities to come together, uniting as one to make a bigger impact in ending breast cancer. Through our community connections, collaborations and partnerships, we are driving this critical work forward. Komen's engaging volunteer experiences bring communities together across the country in a collective effort to save more lives and to be one step closer to a world without breast cancer.

More than 5,000 volunteers joined us in partnership this year to provide inclusive leadership and influence in communities, educate the broader community about Komen's breast health and breast cancer programs and resources, organize our signature events, and host and execute our most significant and moving fundraisers to fuel our mission.

SUSAN G. KOMEN 3-DAY

The Komen 3-Day took place in Boston, Chicago, Dallas and San Diego in 2022. More than 7,400 walkers and crew raised more than \$14 million, surpassing Komen's fundraising goal.

RACE FOR THE CURE & MORE THAN PINK WALK

The Race for the Cure and MORE THAN PINK Walk series raised \$19.5 million this year, with more than 9,700 teams, 118,000 registered participants and 5,000 volunteers through 51 events. In its second year, Komen's nationwide MORE THAN PINK Walk Where You Are program raised \$700,000, with 6,700 participants across all 50 U.S. states; Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; Austria; Brazil; Canada; Germany; Mexico; Singapore; and the United Kingdom.

"I've been to Komen walks in the past as an attendee, and once I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I loved how supported I felt by the organization. Building a team and fundraising became even more important after I was diagnosed. The MORE THAN PINK Walk also happened to be held the week I finished all my treatments, which was a serendipitous way to celebrate myself and the end of my cancer journey." - Alison LoCoco, survivor and MORE THAN Pink Walk participant

Susan G. Komen
3-Day

Susan G. Komen
race
FOR THE
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Susan G. Komen
MORE THAN
PINK WALK

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CHICAGO
DALLAS/FORT WORTH
SAN DIEGO
Susan G. Komen

Community

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Komen's Employee Engagement program and resources were further refined this year, with 275 companies accessing critical breast health educational materials, with more than 143,000 engaged employees. Our toolkits for Breast Health Equity, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and National Breast Cancer Awareness Month educated employees on breast health disparities.

DIY FUNDRAISING

Komen's website and program updates have made it easier for participants to decide what to do, how to do it and access incredible tools to help them be successful in their fundraising efforts. Our DIY Fundraising program surpassed a \$1.9 million fundraising goal this year. The number of individuals registered at [komen.org/fundraise](https://www.komen.org/fundraise) is up 40% year over year.

AMBASSADOR FUNDRAISING

BigWigs and Pink Tie Guys, Komen's ambassador-based fundraising programs, continue to engage high-profile business and community leaders across the country. Participants agree to raise a minimum of \$5,000 and drive awareness for Komen by leveraging their personal and professional networks while wearing a pink wig or tie. This year, our Midwest, Northeast and Southeast Regions opted in to a centralized, one-week campaign called Regional BigWigs to generate healthy competition across our regions at the same time. Twenty-five individuals said "yes" to help raise \$130,000.



PICKLEBALL FOR THE CURE

Komen launched Pickleball for the Cure this year to capitalize on the national growth of pickleball, the fastest growing sport in the U.S. Our first Pickleball for the Cure National Tournament took place in October 2022 in Newport Beach, California, with more than 120 participants raising more than \$70,000. Pickleball for the Cure engaged more than 400 participants in the first six months of the program.



NATIONAL CORPORATE TEAMS

This year, 22 national corporate teams totaling more than 7,000 participants took part in 50 events in Komen's Race/Walk series. The program generated more than \$1.5 million, a 58% increase from 2021. Five national teams raised more than \$50,000: Bank of America, Insight Global, symplr, Salesforce and Zelis. Four National Teams raised more than \$100,000: Lord Abbett, PepsiCo, Susan G. Komen and Walgreens.

LORD ABBETT: "At Lord Abbett, we are committed to ensuring a sustainable future for all. We are proud to support great organizations like Susan G. Komen. Our first collaboration with the organization was in 2022, and the experience was outstanding. The Susan G. Komen national team supported our efforts the entire time and provided us with the tools we needed to surpass our goal of \$50,000, and ultimately raise \$225,000. Thank you to the national team for your commitment to ending breast cancer."

PEPSICO: "The Susan G. Komen team invested so much time and care into making sure our PepsiCo team had the resources and support to be successful in spreading our message of 'no one fights alone' to thousands across our organization. We were able to touch more women and men than ever before, spreading the message of awareness, detection and resources for breast cancer. Susan G. Komen allowed us a platform to strengthen our own internal support group for survivors and those personally impacted by a breast cancer diagnosis, creating a lasting reach more than we could have ever hoped."

WALGREENS: "We have seen increases in team members' engagement and commitment. Walgreens team members really want to find a connection and purpose to what they're doing."

Partner Spotlights

Whether inspiring customers to give, engaging employees or leveraging their expertise and resources, our partners are passionate about their involvement with Susan G. Komen. Through the collective power of our partnerships, Komen funds life-changing research, ensures breast cancer patients have access to high-quality care, and advocates at the federal and state levels on behalf of 4 million breast cancer survivors. These companies stand shoulder to shoulder with us, making our mission a part of their missions.

ASTRAZENECA PHARMACEUTICALS LP – AstraZeneca and Komen have partnered for more than 10 years across multiple programs focused on making a meaningful impact for breast cancer patients. Through our long-standing partnership, we are collaborating on educational initiatives, embedding the patient voice in the clinical development processes, ensuring access to care and addressing health disparities in the breast cancer space.



BANK OF AMERICA – Bank of America has raised more than \$11.8 million since 2009 for Komen through its Pink Ribbon Banking Affinity products, helping customers support Komen through their everyday purchases. Bank of America also serves as the National Presenting sponsor of the 3-Day, Race for the Cure and MORE THAN PINK Walk events, engaging thousands of employees to support the breast cancer community by volunteering at events across the United States.



ELI LILLY & COMPANY – Lilly and Komen’s collaborative efforts support patient navigation services for Black women facing a breast cancer diagnosis. Our collaboration builds on Komen and Lilly’s commitment to addressing systemic inequities that too often have devastating effects on the lives of Black women and their families.



JOANN – In 2022, JOANN raised more than \$1.1 million for Komen through their in-store customer donation program. JOANN also engaged their employees through breast health education and opportunities to participate in Komen races and walks. In recognition of this partnership, Komen and JOANN were awarded the Silver Halo Award in the Best Consumer Donation Initiative by Engage for Good.



WALGREENS – As part of their commitment to helping people live more joyful lives through better health, Walgreens raised more than \$3 million in 2023, and \$17 million since 2019, for Komen through their in-store customer donation program. More than 1,800 Walgreens team members gathered in their communities to honor, celebrate and remember those who have been impacted by breast cancer at their local Race for the Cure and MORE THAN PINK Walk events.



DAIICHI SANKYO – Daiichi Sankyo has partnered with Komen for more than five years. Daiichi Sankyo supports Komen’s patient education initiatives as part of the company’s mission to develop high-quality, life-changing solutions for the patients of today and tomorrow with great care and unwavering dedication. The company relies on reason, ingenuity, perseverance and empathy to make bold strides in oncology.



GILEAD SCIENCES – Gilead and Komen have partnered since 2021. We focus on advancing health equity through the North Carolina Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Collaborative and patient navigation for people with MBC, encouraging community engagement at Race for the Cure and MORE THAN PINK Walk events, and driving state and federal advocacy work through Komen’s Center for Public Policy.



GUARDANT HEALTH – Guardant Health is dedicated to helping patients in all stages of breast cancer live longer and healthier lives. Guardant Health’s partnership with Komen supports patient advocacy, ensuring the patient’s voice is included throughout research, including clinical trials and creating better outcomes for breast cancer patients.



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL – Major League Baseball (MLB) has partnered with Komen since 2003. In 2022, MLB’s Mother’s Day Campaign honored mothers living with breast cancer and remembered those who have passed. Throughout Mother’s Day weekend, MLB engaged their fans and players in breast health education through videos and local team participation.



SUGARBEAR VITAMINS – As part of their mission to provide all women with the care they deserve, Sugarbear Vitamins partnered with Komen to further research and patient care services for the breast cancer community. The health and wellness brand created a specially curated vitamin variety pack, donating 13% of the purchase price to Komen, which represents the percentage of women impacted by breast cancer in their lifetime. Sugarbear Vitamins leveraged their robust marketing channels to support the partnership, sharing critical breast health information with their vast audience.



WACOAL – In 2022, Wacoal America celebrated 1 million bra fittings through the Fit for the Cure® program. More than 500 Fit for the Cure® events occurred in stores across the United States and Canada in the spring and fall. Since 1999, Wacoal has donated more than \$6 million to Komen and has helped make a direct impact on patients’ lives by supporting the Patient Care Center.



ZENITH – Zenith and Komen launched our partnership in 2022 with a special edition Chronomaster Original watch, with 20% of the sale of each watch benefiting Komen. As part of their support, Zenith integrated Komen into their international DREAMHERS event, sharing Komen’s impact on women’s empowerment and global health.



Thank you for saving lives

Allied Van Lines	Exact Sciences	Kirkland & Ellis LLP	thredUP
AmazonSmile	FITCRUNCH	Major League Baseball	Topco
Amgen, Inc.	Ford Motor Company	McDermott, Will & Emery	United States Bowling Congress
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP	French Transit. Ltd.	Merck & Company, Inc.	Victoria's Secret
Avis Budget Group	Fund II	Mielle Organics	Wacoal America
Avocados from Mexico	Fuji Photo Film U.S.A., Inc.	Mohawk	Walgreens
Bank of America	GE HealthCare	National Tree Company	XpresSpa
BJ's Wholesale Club	Genentech	Nature's Bounty Optimal Solutions	ZENITH
Bright Pink	Gibson Dunn & Crutcher	Party City	
CertainTeed	Gilead Sciences	Prolacta Bioscience, Inc.	
Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc. (CARS)	Goldman Sachs	Ready™	
Costco Wholesale	GreenSource Brand Apparel, Inc.	Sanofi-Aventis	
Cure Strategic Alliance	Guardant Health	Simon Property Group, LP	
Daiichi Sankyo	Hallmark	Simplify Asset Management	
DLA Piper	Hood Container	Sugarbear Vitamins	
Echelon Fitness Multimedia	Insight Global		
	JOANN		
	John Hardy		

Komen Leadership

Komen's diverse Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Executive Leadership Team, work tirelessly to establish partnerships, serve as advocates and thought leaders, and collaborate with allies to ensure that Komen fulfills its commitment to health equity.

Board of Directors

- Renee Baker, Head of Advisor Inclusion Networks, Raymond James
- Traci Otey Blunt, Founder & Principal, Blunt Group Strategies
- Michelle Bottomley, Founder & CEO, Modern Growth Exchange
- Peter Brundage, Senior Managing Director, Evercore
- Ed Dandridge - Board Chair, President, ScaleWith
- Boris Dolgonos, Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
- Julie Gruber, Chief Legal & Compliance Officer, Gap, Inc.
- Julia Harris, President, Ronin Holdings
- Gail Heimann, President, Weber Shandwick
- LaQuenta Jacobs, VP, Global Head of Inclusion, Kimberly-Clark
- Jerri Johnson, Board Vice Chair, VP Workforce Management Technology, Sony Pictures Entertainment
- Kristen Maple, Partner & Chief Impact Officer, Lord Abbett
- Christina Minnis, Global Head of Acquisition Finance, Goldman Sachs
- Valerie Rainey, Chief Financial Officer, iCIMS
- Luke Sauter, VP, Chief of Staff to the CEO, Walgreens Boots Alliance
- BJ Schacknowski, CEO, Symplr
- Robyn Shepherd, Partner & Head of Corporate Engagement, Bridgewater Associates
- Sean Slovenski, CEO, BioIQ
- Lydia The, Vice President, Strategy & Growth Corporate Business Development, Eli Lilly & Company

Komen Executive Leadership Team

- Paula Schneider, President & CEO
- Eunice Nakamura, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
- Catherine Olivieri, SVP, Human Resources
- Ria Williams, Chief Financial & Operations Officer
- Victoria Wolodzko Smart, SVP, Mission

Estate Gift Spotlight

Cory Spiro is remembered by her sister, Kimberly, as a free spirit who loved to travel. In the early 2000s, Cory was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was caught at an early stage, and her treatment included radiation therapy. For more than 44 years, Cory worked as a flight attendant for American Airlines and even had an airplane named after her.

"Cory loved life and loved her friends and family," Kimberly said. When Cory passed away in March 2018, she left a gift of nearly \$2 million to Komen. Her gift will provide funds to advance breast cancer research – a fitting legacy for a woman who loved helping others.



Komen Leadership

As a diverse group of passionate community influencers and advocates, Komen's leaders offer subject matter expertise and guidance to help Komen amplify resources and support for anyone going through the breast cancer experience, connect patients to care, promote lifesaving research, advocate for equitable policies and are instrumental in driving donations that support critical health equity programs.

KOMEN LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

A total of 289 leaders in their communities have provided critical funds toward realizing our vision of a world without breast cancer and supporting our research, advocacy and patient care programs. Komen has 29 Komen Leadership Councils across the nation in our five regions: Midwest, Northeast, South Central, Southeast and West.

These leaders represent Komen in their communities as brand and mission ambassadors, sharing the impact of our work; the advancements of our lifesaving research; the change we can all make together as advocates in matters of policy; and connecting communities to our Patient Care Center, breaking down barriers in access to care.



FEATURED KLC MEMBER:

Mike McCarthy

Mike McCarthy has been a key member of the Chicago Komen Leadership Council since 2021, when he joined as a founding member. He currently serves as chair. Mike has been committed to fighting breast cancer and improving outcomes for those diagnosed and in treatment, as he lost his mother to breast cancer. As general manager of Marquee Sports Network in Chicago, Mike supports Komen's mission by providing leadership for sponsored events, including Chicago's inaugural BigWigs Campaign, the 25th Anniversary of the Chicago Race for the Cure and the First Look for Charity at the Chicago Auto Show.

His dedication has helped to increase funding for Komen's mission by almost 55% in Chicago. About his commitment to Komen, Mike says, "Having lost my mother to breast cancer at a very young age, the interest in curing this terrible disease has been pronounced from the earliest times I can remember. I'm proud and genuinely touched to be able to contribute to this great organization."

MBC STEERING COMMITTEE

A group of MBC patients inform and guide Komen's MBC programming, including selecting topics and participating in speaking engagements. The committee members are appointed for two-year terms.

Maren Coffman, Ph.D., R.N., CNE

Ashley Fernandez

Idalia Guzmán

Nancy Herard-Marshall

Julia Hughes

Pam Kohl

Missy Van Lokeren

PUBLIC POLICY ADVISORY BOARD

These individuals provide subject matter expertise, strategic input and guidance to Susan G. Komen's Center for Public Policy and help set the priorities and strategies to meet Komen's mission. Additionally, they provide input on emerging breast health and breast cancer policy and regulatory issues at the state and federal levels.

Jennifer Nelson Carney, J.D., Managing Partner, Epstein, Becker & Green

Shonta Chambers, M.S.W., EVP of Health Equity Initiative & Community Engagement, Patient Advocate Foundation

Lisa Chan-Sawin, M.H.A., CEO, Transform Health

Alpha Lillstrom Cheng, M.A., J.D., President, Lillstrom Cheng Strategies

Mary Grealy, J.D., President, Healthcare Leadership Council

LaTasha Lee, Ph.D., M.P.H., Adjunct Professor, The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

David Lofye, J.D., Founder & Principal, David Lofye Consulting

Beth Porreca, Senior Director of Development, USA Football

Kathryn Schubert, M.P.P., President & CEO, Society for Women's Health Research



Komen Leadership

SUSAN G. KOMEN ADVISORS

Komen’s Advisors are leaders in breast cancer research, clinical practice and advocacy who make significant contributions to advancing the field through strategic guidance and direction for our research and scientific programs to help Komen advance health equity. These leaders make up our Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), led by our Chief Scientific Advisors (CSA), and play a key role in guiding and prioritizing Komen’s research investment.

In December 2022, Ann H. Partridge, M.D., M.P.H., was appointed as Komen’s newest CSA. As a leader in breast cancer care and treatment, Dr. Partridge has dedicated her career to improving the care and outcomes of cancer patients, especially young women. Dr. Partridge succeeded CSA George W. Sledge, M.D., and joined Jennifer Pietenpol, Ph.D., who has served as Komen’s CSA since 2017.

The SAB also serves as the Executive Committee of the Komen Scholars. Komen Scholars are a group of distinguished scholars and leaders in breast cancer research, clinical practice, public health, advocacy and other relevant fields who help drive Komen’s mission forward. The Komen Scholars consist of Research Scholars, who conduct innovative breast cancer research, and Advocate Scholars, who are accomplished at representing the patient community to ensure their perspectives are included in all discussions and decisions. The Advocate Scholars serve on the Steering Committee for Komen’s Advocates in Science program, which trains interested individuals to bring the patient voice to scientific discussions and research projects. Thanks to the efforts of Komen’s Advisors, we are driving discovery, affecting change and accelerating progress in the fight against breast cancer.

Ann H. Partridge, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Scientific Advisor (December 2022 – present)

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Jennifer A. Pietenpol, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Advisor

George W. Sledge, M.D., Chief Scientific Advisor (January 2022 – September 2022)

Ann H. Partridge, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Scientific Advisor (December 2022 – Present)

Alan Ashworth, Ph.D., F.R.S.

Lisa A. Carey, M.D.

Sandra Finestone, Psy.D., Advocate in Science

Adrian V. Lee, Ph.D.

Lisa A. Newman, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, FASCO

Kornelia Polyak, M.D., Ph.D.

KOMEN SCHOLARS

Sunil S. Badve, M.D., FCRPath
Regina Barzilay, Ph.D.

Tracy Battaglia, M.D., M.P.H.

Abenaa M. Brewster, M.D., M.H.S.

Thelma Brown, Advocate in Science

Tomika Bryant, Advocate in Science

Mariana Chavez MacGregor, M.D, M.Sc., FASCO

Lisa M. Coussens, Ph.D.

Christina Curtis, Ph.D., M.Sc.,

Angela M. DeMichele, M.D., MSCE

Sharon H. Giordano, M.D., M.P.H., FASCO

Dawn L. Hershman, M.D., M.S.

Reshma Jagsi, M.D., D.Phil.

Cheryl L. Jernigan, CPA, FACHE, Advocate in Science

Sheila Johnson, Advocate in Science

Yibin Kang, Ph.D.

Keith L. Knutson, Ph.D.

Allison W. Kurian, M.D., M.Sc.

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Olufunmilayo I. Olopade, M.D., FACP

Tuya Pal, M.D.

Julie R. Palmer, Sc.D., M.P.H.

Ben Ho Park, M.D., Ph.D.

Leigh Pate, Advocate in Science

Charles M. Perou, Ph.D.

Lajos Pusztai, M.D., D.Phil.

Amelie G. Ramirez, Dr.P.H., M.P.H.

Jorge S. Reis-Filho, M.D., Ph.D., FRCPath

Barbara Segarra-Vazquez, MT, D.H.Sc., Advocate in Science

Sohrab P. Shah, Ph.D.

Rulla M. Tammi, Sc.D.

Melinda L. Telli, M.D.

Sara Tolaney, M.D., M.P.H.

Melissa A. Troester, Ph.D.

Nikhil Wagle, M.D.

Meryl R. Weinreb, M.A., Advocate in Science

Alana L. Welm, Ph.D.

Our entire organization and the breast cancer community thank you for the impact you made this year. Komen knows connecting with an organization's mission is just the start.

Ending breast cancer needs all of us.

