

Grant money comes to Delco in fight against breast cancer

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Susan G. Komen Philadelphia recently announced the awarding of \$425,000 in grants to 17 organizations, including The Foundation for Delaware County, to advance critical and life-saving breast cancer initiatives specifically targeting medically underserved, uninsured and/or low-income populations. While early detection and free mammograms for women in need lie at the heart of the community grants program, funding will also support a comprehensive list of services—including breast health education, awareness and other outreach, diagnostic and treatment services and navigation support—aimed at closing the gap in breast cancer disparities. These recent grants bring Komen Philadelphia’s total grant distribution to \$62.5 million since the community grant program started.

The Foundation for Delaware County received a screening, diagnostic and treatment grant from the Komen Philadelphia Community Grants Program to fund its program “Comprehensive Breast Care to the Women of Delaware County” for the coming year. This grant is carried out in partnership with Crozer-Keystone Health System, the largest provider of cancer care in the county. Over 1,000 Delaware County women will receive one-to-one education, screening mammograms, clinical breast exams, and diagnostic testing under this grant.

“Outreach and access are key terms when it comes to the work of our grantees,” said Elaine I. Grobman, chief executive officer of Komen Philadelphia. “We are making tremendous progress in this fight — in increasing the number of breast cancer survivors. But in our 15 counties alone there are tens-of- thousands of women in the shadows, held back by fear, lack of knowledge, cultural practices or the misconception that they cannot afford mammograms and breast health care. We can’t just expect these women to suddenly come forward and ask for help. Our grant program is about having forces on the ground reaching them in ways that are non-threatening and effective, giving them the access to the same quality services as everyone else, and providing the support and following-up that helps ensure lifesaving practices are followed consistently and indefinitely.”

“Despite improvements in health insurance coverage in our county, many women aren’t eligible for coverage through their jobs and some women are unemployed,” said Frances M. Sheehan, president of the Foundation for Delaware County. “These women, who often have other barriers to accessing care as well, are often unable to get care at the earliest stage of disease when treatment is most effective. Our goal is to prevent late stage diagnosis and premature death. We are pleased to partner with Susan G. Komen Philadelphia and Crozer-Keystone Health System in making these breast health services available to women in need in Delaware County.”

A public charity founded in 2016, The Foundation for Delaware County is the largest philanthropy serving Delaware County. Operating as the county’s community foundation, it is headquartered in Media with offices in Chester, Upper Darby and Springfield. The foundation will make grants to improve the health and quality of life for the diverse residents in this thriving county, with emphases that include maternal and children’s health, hospice and home care, and support for those living with cancer. For information, visit www.delcofoundation.org and follow on Twitter at @DelcoFdn.