

KOMEN COLUMBUS REACHES OUT TO AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN 23 COUNTIES ACROSS OHIO

(COLUMBUS, OH) – Breast cancer hits African American women in central Ohio and throughout the nation harder than any other ethnic group in the United States.

Komen Columbus, during Black History month and throughout the year, reaches out to African American women within its 23-county service area with a series of grants specifically aimed at eradicating this dilemma.

Komen Columbus funds programs like the American Cancer Society's Breast Education, Screening and Treatment (BEST) Program for Women and The James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institution's Grandma's Hands-Clinical Research Education. Both focus on breast cancer treatment, education and screening of African American women in central Ohio.

Jacquelin Holland, program director of Grandma's Hands, said Komen Columbus' second-year grant in 2006 will help stem the alarmingly high mortality rate of African American women with breast cancer.

Within five years of breast cancer diagnosis, about one-in-four (26 percent) African American women will die, compared to just 12 percent of white women.

Grandma's Hands helps teach women 50 and older about breast cancer and the benefits of clinical trials in breast cancer diagnosis and research.

"There is a lot of distrust within the African American community when it comes to the health care industry," Holland said. "Our program educates these women that clinical trials are the best way we have in developing new therapies. It is our hope that these women will pass their experiences and knowledge down to their children and grandchildren with the goal of saving lives in the future."

The later the diagnosis of breast cancer, the less likely the chances of survival become.

Komen Columbus has raised more than \$7 million since it began in 1993 – 75 percent of that money stays in its 23-county service area and is used to conduct breast cancer education, screening and treatment programs. The other 25 percent goes to the Komen Foundation to fund national breast cancer research programs. More than 30,000 people are expected to participate in the **2006 Komen Columbus Race for the Cure® that will be held on Saturday, May 20 in downtown Columbus.** For more information and to register, please visit www.komencolumbus.org or call the Komen Columbus office at (614) 297-8155.

-###-