

## **Susan G. Komen for the Cure Awards \$1 Million for Creation of Illinois Breast Cancer Quality Consortium**

CHICAGO, Sept. 27 /PRNewswire/ -- Susan G. Komen for the Cure(R), the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists, and the Komen Chicagoland Area Affiliate announced today a \$1 million grant to the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force in front of the more than 10,000 participants at the Komen Chicago Race for the Cure(R) in Grant Park.

This \$1 million grant will fund the creation of the Illinois Breast Cancer Quality Consortium, which is working to close the gap in breast cancer deaths among Chicago's African American community, a staggering 68 percent higher when compared to white women, by improving the quality of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

"We've made it our priority to fund projects that focus on ways to significantly reduce breast cancer incidence and mortality within the next ten years," said Kimberly Simpson, chief operating officer for Susan G. Komen for the Cure, who presented the grant to the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force. "The work of the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force is critical in helping the Chicago community take action to reverse these alarming statistics, improve outcomes and decrease this enormous racial disparity."

Formed in March 2007, the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force brought together more than 70 organizations, including hospitals and healthcare, breast health advocacy and community-based groups to assess existing quality standards and best practices among the breast cancer detection and treatment process. The Task Force has since developed action plans to address the three probable causes of the mortality gap: inadequate access to mammography; poor quality of mammography; and inadequate access to and poor quality of treatment.

The Illinois Breast Cancer Quality Consortium will coordinate the collection and sharing of breast cancer quality data from institutions across the area and will provide rapid-cycle improvement support to institutions whose quality of care falls short of the Consortium's guidelines along with helping to coordinate timely breast cancer care for women in need.

About Susan G. Komen for the Cure(R)

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure(R) and launched the global breast cancer movement. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Thanks to events like the Komen Race for the Cure, we have invested more than \$1 billion to fulfill our promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world. For more information about Susan G. Komen for the Cure, breast health or breast cancer, visit <http://www.komen.org> or call 1-877 GO KOMEN.

About the Chicagoland Area Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure(R)

The Chicagoland Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure(R) was established in 1997 and held the first Susan G. Komen Chicago Race for the Cure(R). With the support of our signature fundraiser, the Komen Chicago Race for the Cure(R), the Komen Chicagoland Affiliate has awarded more than \$7 million toward the fight against breast cancer by funding grassroots breast health education and breast cancer screening and treatment projects, as well as national research. Seventy-five percent of the net proceeds raised by the Affiliate are dedicated to fighting breast cancer locally in the Chicagoland metropolitan area. The remaining 25 percent are contributed to the Komen Grants Program which funds research and education programs. The generosity and spirit of our corporate sponsors and community partners enables the Affiliate to organize the Susan G. Komen Chicago Race for the Cure(R) as well as other breast cancer awareness events and fundraisers throughout the year.