

Immediate Release

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Christiana Care Health System's Pink Ribbon Program Receives Grant from Susan G. Komen Philadelphia

(NEWARK, Del. – Feb. 25) For the 13th consecutive year, [Christiana Care Health System](#) received a \$100,000 grant from Susan G. Komen Philadelphia to fund its [Pink Ribbon Program](#), a free service pairing patients with bilingual navigators to improve access to mammography screenings.

The program, which is run by Christiana Care's [Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute](#), uses outreach navigators who partner with patients to schedule mammogram appointments, provide breast health education, find transportation, escort patients to the screenings and help find funding sources to cover the cost of the mammogram. The navigators also educate the community about breast health, cancer prevention and early detection.

The program also provides funds for screening mammograms for those who are eligible. These women can get their mammograms during block screening times on the second Tuesday and third Thursday of each month at Christiana Care's Wilmington Hospital.

“With the help of navigators, we have found non-traditional and innovative ways to screen women who are underserved and live in non-English speaking communities,” said Nora Katurakes, RN, MSN, OCN, manager of Community Health Outreach and Education at the Graham Cancer Center. “The grant allows us to educate women and their families about how to use insurance and access screenings, which is a critical need now due to the changing landscape of health care.”

The Pink Ribbon Program's impact in the last 23 months:

- Provided services to more than 13,600 women.
- More than 2200 women were navigated with the help of our community partners.
- Screening mammogram and diagnostic services performed: 718— (425 mammograms, 154 diagnostic mammograms, 30 ultrasounds, 4 MRIs and 5 genetic counseling appointments).
- Financial assistance: 658 women received some sort of funding for screenings, diagnostics and procedures.
- Breast education and outreach team has reached more than 6900 women.

Joceline Valentin, a navigator, speaks English and Spanish and reaches out to community members in a variety of ways. “We’ve had great success reaching women at the New Castle Farmers Market, at churches, schools, and food pantries,” she said. “Last year, we educated 349 people about breast health at seven sessions at a local food pantry.” She noted that some men attended, and for those she dispensed information about prostate cancer.

A local nurse, Kruti Solanki, who spearheads health initiatives at the BAPS Temple, helps Hindu women understand the importance of screening mammograms. “Women in the Hindu community don’t get regular gynecological check-ups or mammograms,” she said. Yet after a lot of education and word-of-mouth advertising, Solanki has helped dozens of women several Sundays after Temple services access mammography services at the Graham Cancer Center.

For the 2015-2016 grant period, Komen Philadelphia distributed more than \$1.3 million in grants – up from \$1.1 million last year – to support breast health education, awareness, screening and treatment initiatives specifically targeting low-income, uninsured women. Komen Philadelphia distributes grants to organizations that work with the medically underserved, including uninsured and underinsured individuals and those who may not receive adequate care because of such barriers as language, cultural differences and fear.

“Komen Philadelphia has a responsibility to the 3.7 million women we serve to assure every one of them has ready access to the doctors, services and support that save lives,” said Elaine I. Grobman, Chief Executive Officer of Susan G. Komen Philadelphia. “Together, Komen Philadelphia and our grantees are making sure that happens.”

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country’s largest health care providers, ranking as the 22nd leading hospital in the nation and 12th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Thomas Jefferson Medical College, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. Christiana Care is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care also features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers the highest level of non-surgical care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/whoweare.

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