

**Immediate Release**

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

(NEWARK, Del. – Apr. 27, 2016) For the 14th consecutive year, Christiana Care Health System received a \$90,000 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 and partner agencies to assist individuals to schedule mammogram appointments, provide breast health education, find transportation 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.

This program also provides funds for screening mammograms for those who are eligible. These women can call to get assistance for mammograms and if funding is necessary will be assisted by a navigator. Special block time screenings are arranged with women's groups to help eliminate barriers. Some groups require additional interpreters and help. This program supports outreach to meet their needs. In addition, block screening times are available on the second Tuesday and third Thursday of each month at Christiana Care's Wilmington Hospital or through special weekend events.

"With coordination from our community leaders and partners we are able to assist those to get mammograms completed by using navigators, interpreters and special scheduling," said Nora Katurakes, RN, MSN, OCN, manager of Community Health Outreach and Education at the Graham Cancer Center. "The grant supports us to provide information and assist with access to screenings and, help with connecting financial resources which continues to be a critical need."

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

- Provided services to more than 8,000 women – five breast cancers detected.
- More than 2,089 women were navigated with the help of our community partners.
- Screening mammogram and diagnostic services performed: 884— (381 mammograms, 216 diagnostic mammograms, 279 ultrasounds and 8 MRIs)
- Financial assistance: 668 women received some sort of funding for screenings, diagnostics and procedures.
- Interpreter services assisted 72 women at special screenings.

Joceline Valentin, community outreach coordinator and women's health navigator, speaks English and Spanish and reaches out to community members in a variety of ways. "We've had great success reaching women at our annual Latina Conference," she said. "Last year was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conference. More than 350 women attended, learning valuable information and resources for breast health and other women's health issues." She noted 21 women were assisted with their mammograms after the event.

For the 2016-2017 grant period, Komen Philadelphia distributed more than \$1 million in grants 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.

"The support and empowerment provided by Christiana Care Health System as well as our other grantees lay the foundations so that more and more people can survive breast cancer," said Carlos Hernandez, Program Director, Grants & Public Policy, Komen Philadelphia. "Our grantees are highly capable and extremely devoted . . . they are leading millions of people out of the darkness of breast cancer and instead filling their journey with hope and life-enriching, life-saving services regardless of race, financial ability, education or background."

### **About Christiana Care Health System**

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care providers, ranking as the 22<sup>nd</sup> leading hospital in the nation and 12<sup>th</sup> 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/howeare](http://www.christianacare.org/howeare).

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