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KOMEN CONNECTICUT RELEASES PROFILE OF BREAST HEALTH IN CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD - November 30, 2009 - Amid the recent confusion surrounding the national recommendations for mammography screening, the Connecticut Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure® demonstrates how crucial access to screening is for all women in the state with the release of their *2009 Community Profile of Breast Cancer in Connecticut*.

The *Community Profile* report is the result of a community assessment conducted every two years by Komen Connecticut, which identifies the underserved areas of our state and helps direct the Affiliate's funding priorities. The report reveals some alarming realities of breast cancer and breast health in Connecticut:

- Connecticut has the **fifth highest incidence** of breast cancer in the nation
- Connecticut ranks **16th in the nation** for breast cancer mortality rates
- Connecticut's breast cancer mortality rate is **higher than the national average**

As a result, Komen Connecticut has announced the following funding priorities for 2010 and 2011:

- **Priority 1:** To promote breast health awareness including knowledge of available programs and services among Connecticut women.
- **Priority 2:** To enhance and expand breast health screening and services for Connecticut women.
- **Priority 3:** To expand outreach and facilitate access to services among a variety of underserved populations including racial and ethnic minority groups, low-income women, the uninsured and other populations.
- **Priority 4:** To strengthen and build the patient education capacity of health care providers so that they deliver timely and appropriate messages about breast health.

These priorities are created to focus funds where they are most needed in the state, particularly among the medically underserved. Komen Connecticut believes it is crucial to fund innovative, community-based breast health programs that provide education, screening and treatment to our local communities. Currently, 22 breast health programs across Connecticut are being funded with \$871,000 in grants. The Affiliate will announce the latest slate of community grant awardees in April.

To download the *2009 Community Profile of Breast Health in Connecticut*, or for more information, please visit KomenCT.org.

About Susan G. Komen for the Cure® and the Komen Connecticut Affiliate Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast

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Early detection is the key to survival.

cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement. The Connecticut Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure was established in 1993 to fund research and better the lives of those facing breast cancer in the local community by supporting local organizations that focus on breast health issues and access to care. Seventy-five percent of net proceeds from the Affiliate stay in the community to fund local breast health programs, and in 2009 alone, the Affiliate granted \$871,000 to fund 22 local breast health programs at organizations throughout Connecticut. Combined with national research dollars, Komen Connecticut has made a \$19 million impact on Connecticut's breast health and the breast cancer movement. For more information, call 860-728-4955 or visit KomenCT.org.

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